



After the annual reshuffle and the crisis of the Lawson resignation comes another change in the team

## Fowler's departure will not affect balance of Cabinet

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister told the Cabinet on July 27, in the wake of her traumatic annual reshuffle, that the team she had assembled that week was the one she wanted to fight the next general election.

However, in the six months since then, she has been forced to appoint new faces to the positions of Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chief Whip - and, with Norman Fowler's surprise resignation yesterday, a new Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Fowler's departure is not a political hammer blow to Mrs Thatcher. He has been one of her most loyal supporters and left without acrimony. He is unlikely to kick over the traces on the backbenches.

However, it is an embarrassment, nevertheless, adding to the impression of untidiness created by her forced and unforced rearrangements of her team in recent months.

Her July 27 pep talk was made necessary by the future

surrounding that reshuffle, with Sir Geoffrey Howe being moved against his will from the Foreign Office, the disclosure that he had been offered Mr Douglas Hurd's job as Home Secretary, and the seemingly dispute over houses.

She told her ministers, including Mr Fowler, that she hoped they would be staying where they were until the next election. She thus gave Mr Lawson the assurance that he could stay to complete an unprecedented two terms as Chancellor if he wished.

As it turned out, he did not. His resignation on October 26 over the role of the Prime Minister's adviser, Sir Alan Walters, led to one of the biggest crises of Mrs Thatcher's premiership.

Mr John Major moved to become Chancellor, Mr Hurd to Foreign Secretary and Mr David Waddington to Home Secretary. But the Government has recovered well from Mr Lawson's departure. In the view of many Conservative MPs that reshuffle served to

improve the Government, with Mr Hurd performing like the natural Foreign Secretary everyone expected him to be. Mr Major far more at home in the Treasury than in his brief spell at the Foreign Office and Mr Waddington starting well at the Home Office.

Things were at last settling down. Although he timed his departure to cause the least difficulty for her, Mrs Thatcher will have regretted the further disruption.

Mr Fowler admitted last night that he had first told Mrs Thatcher of his intention to go in July. Friends said last night that he had hoped for more from the July reshuffle.

Mr Fowler was a strong parliamentary performer and was always one of the best received of all Cabinet ministers at the Tory Party Conference.

His departure does not change the balance of the Cabinet. Mr Michael Howard's promotion is reward for his skilful handling of a series of difficult briefs.

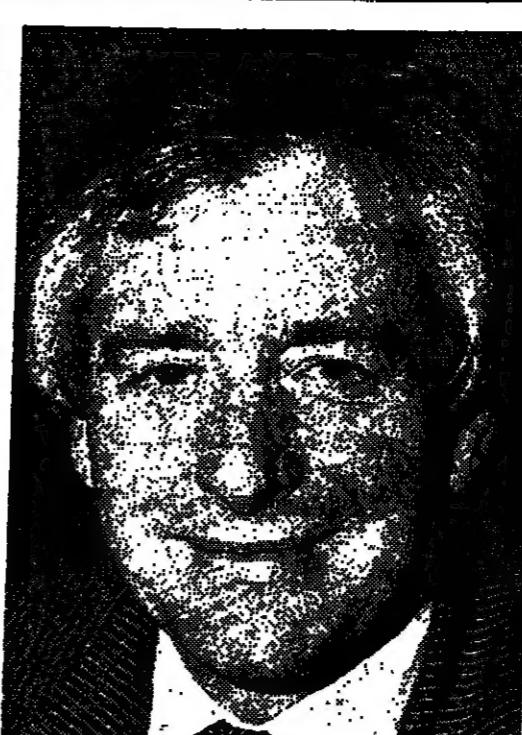
Mr Michael Howard, successor to Mr Norman Fowler as Secretary of State for Employment, is the man who helped to mastermind privatisation of the water industry. As Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Mr Howard, aged 48, steered the Bill through Parliament.

He entered Parliament as MP for Folkestone and Hythe in 1983, having been appointed QC on becoming a junior Counsel to the Crown in 1980.

Mr Howard was born in Llanelli, south Wales, and was educated at Llanelli Grammar School and Peterhouse, Cambridge.



New posts (from left): Mr Michael Howard, employment secretary, Mr Michael Spicer, environment minister, Mr Tony Baldry, energy under-secretary.



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Mr Tony Baldry, a barrister and director of a publishing company, joins the Government as Under-Secretary for Energy, having entered Parliament as MP for Banbury in 1983 (Michael Hornell writes). He is passionately pro-Europe.

Mr Baldry, aged 39, first came to prominence when he successfully led a Conservative students' legal battle in 1971 to prevent the students' union at Sussex University from making a £500 gift to help Bangladesh refugees.

He was a personal aide to Mrs Thatcher during the October 1974 election and went on to work in the

Leader of the Opposition's office before unsuccessfully contesting Thirsk in 1979.

He is a former Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, to the Lord Privy Seal and to the Leader of the House, and is a member of the Bow Group.

Mr Michael Spicer first made his mark in politics when he became chairman of Pest, a Tory group dedicated to ending "the poll of the old school tie", while reading economics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

As Minister of State for the

Environment, he will be given the opportunity to expand his egalitarian wing. Mr Spicer entered Parliament for South Worcestershire in 1974.

In 1979 he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Consumer Affairs and in 1981 was appointed vice-chairman of the Conservative Party. In 1983 he joined Mr Ian Gow as PPS to the Prime Minister.

In 1984 he became Under-Secretary of State for Transport and three years later Under-Secretary of State for Energy.

Howard profile, page 11

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Lockerbie victims lose court claim

Pan Am has won the first round of what could be a long and protracted legal battle over compensation claims from victims of the Lockerbie disaster (Harvey Elliott writes).

An American judge ruled yesterday that the airline could not be made subject to punitive damages under the Warsaw Convention. The convention limits an airline's liability in international disasters to \$75,500 (about £45,500) a plaintiff.

However, the limit can be lifted if lawyers can prove "wilful misconduct" on the part of the airline.

Plaintiffs' lawyers had been optimistic that they could get the ceiling lifted because Pan Am did not notify the passengers that the State Department had received a bomb threat regarding Flight 103 two weeks before the crash.

Judge Thomas Platt ruled that the convention limits did apply, meaning that Pan Am could not be shown to have acted in such a wilful manner that they should be effectively fined on top of the normal compensation they will have eventually to pay. Pan Am had argued that it was prohibited by the US Government from notifying the passengers of the bomb threat.

## Diseased cattle sold

Meat from cattle infected with the "mad-cow disease" may still be reaching supermarkets and butchers as unscrupulous farmers run the risk of heavy fines to sell diseased animals at market (Richard Duce writes). The National Farmers' Union admitted that livestock could be going for slaughter while farmers suspected their cattle was infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy. North Yorkshire trading standards officers have found seven such cases.

## McNab fights for lead

Colin McNab, the Dundee chess master, is battling for the lead in his seventh-round game of the Challengers' section of the Foreign and Colonial Chess Tournament at Hastings (Raymond Keene writes). McNab, who scored a tremendous 5½ points from the first six games, faced Joseph Gallagher, of Wimbledon, yesterday. After five hours and a fierce struggle, McNab was fighting desperately to stave off a loss and preserve his tournament lead.

## Soldier hurt by bomb

A part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment was undergoing surgery for leg injuries last night after being severely injured in an IRA car bomb (Edward Gorman writes). Police said two other people sitting in a parked car in Maghera were taken to hospital, one with minor injuries, the other suffering shock. The soldier, aged 33, is married and has two children. He works for the local council. He is the second victim of terrorism in the province this year.

## Tree protest fails

Protesters have failed to stop 92 trees being felled in the New Forest (Suzy Price writes). About 30 wildlife lovers surrounded the birch and pine trees on common land near Fordingbridge, Hampshire, on Tuesday in a bid to halt the work. Half of them returned yesterday but were warned by police to keep away from the site. Mr Sidney Deedman, a retired businessman, was granted a licence to fell the trees which he claimed blocked the view from his home. The campaigners, led by Miss Freda Williams, who lives next to the site, said that the trees were a beauty spot and a wildlife haven.

## Aids research success

A protein molecule has been created in the laboratory that can render the Aids virus non-infectious and so stop it spreading in the body (Pearce Wright writes). The discovery offers a possible treatment for the disease, according to scientists whose findings are published in *Nature* today. The work was carried out by an American research team from the Smith Kline and French Laboratories, Pennsylvania, and the Duke University Medical Centre, North Carolina.

## Divided interest risk in council service buy-outs

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Management buy-outs by council officials may damage the interests of business rate and poll tax payers. The Audit Commission warns in a statement published today.

From the officials' point of view, buying the refuse collection service or the local leisure centre may make financial sense but profits may be made at the expense of the charge payers. Councils should ensure strict separation between managers contemplating a buy-out and officials drawing up tenders and contracts.

Councils should guard against undervaluing buildings and vehicles before selling them, the Commission says.

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# M1 disaster pilot still in hospital one year after plane crash

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

The captain of the British Midland Boeing 737-400 which crashed on the M1 with the loss of 47 lives is still in Stoke Mandeville Hospital with spinal injuries, a year after the accident.

Captain Kevin Hunt, aged 44, broke his back when the aircraft crashed on to a motorway embankment just short of the runway at East Midlands airport on January 8 last year.

His co-pilot, First Officer David McLellan, aged 40, was also badly injured but has returned to his home in Northern Ireland after several months in hospital. He is still unable to resume his flying duties. Five of the six crew members, three men and three women, are back on limited flying duties. One has since left British Midland. The

airline has offered each of the victims the equivalent of £81,000, the maximum payable under existing laws, in compensation either for their injuries or the loss of a relative, but none has so far accepted the money. Instead, they plan to pursue joint claims in the American courts against the aircraft's manufacturer, Boeing, and the engine makers General Electric and Smeeta.

Many accepted an interim payment of £5,000 made soon after the accident to cover their immediate needs.

The action in the US courts is likely to begin once the official accident report, being prepared by the Department of Transport's Accident Investigation Branch at Farnborough, has been published in March or April. Interested parties will be sent draft copies in February and be given one month in

which to comment. It will be followed by a full inquest into the 47 who died. The report will describe how flight BD 092 left Heathrow for Belfast with 117 passengers and one baby on board. As it reached the top of its climb with the engines at maximum 23,500lb thrust the left engine suddenly began to vibrate and the crew smelled smoke.

The engine was shattered by resonance, a particular pitch of vibration which snapped a fan blade and caused enormous internal damage. The pilots believed that the right-hand engine, and not the left, was damaged and shut it down, at the same time throttling back on the left-hand engine as the aircraft began its descent towards its home base.

The report will contain detailed analyses by experts in "human factors" — the psychology of pilots' relationships

with their instruments, with each other and the way in which the human brain reacts to information provided by outside stimuli.

It will also disclose there were indications of a remaining problem with the left-hand engine although the pilots did not react to them because the initial vibration ceased when the right-hand engine was shut down. The left-hand engine finally exploded when they were less than a minute from landing and they had asked for full power to take them over the airfield threshold. By then it was too late to restart the right-hand engine.

Another chapter of the report will study the lay-out of the instruments on the flight deck, which some airlines had insisted should be changed before they took delivery because they believed them to be too close together. The

vibration indicators especially — one for each engine — are little bigger than a five piece and calibrated from 0 to 5.

Work has also been carried out into the survivability of the crash in which 78 people and the baby were injured. The child's mother died.

An outside team of experts, not directly connected with the AAIB and whose comments will appear as an appendix to the main body of the report, believe that had the seats been facing the rear many more would have survived.

Their view is certain to be challenged by the Civil Aviation Authority and the airlines, however, because of the enormous cost involved in making such a change, the fact that rear-facing seats are unpopular with passengers and that the aircraft effectively hit the ground rather than made a heavy landing. After the

East Midlands disaster a number of other airlines also reported an engine break-up when the CFM 56-3C engines, fitted to their Boeing 737-400s, were at maximum power and at a height of 25,000 feet or more.

The CAA therefore ordered all those engines to be kept to a lower thrust setting to prevent the combination of height, power and vibration causing the potentially fatal resonance.

Now, however, they have relaxed the rules and allowed airlines operating the 737-400 to use the engines at maximum thrust on take-off and up to 10,000 feet.

Despite the accident there has been no loss of confidence among passengers in BMA. Before the crash it had flown 460,000 passengers on the route in the previous year, that has since grown by about 10 per cent to 513,000.

## MP's lover denies demanding £20,000 for return of tapes

By David Sapsted

The former mistress of Ron Brown, the Labour MP, yesterday denied that she had demanded £20,000 from him for the return of "politically sensitive" tapes.

Mrs Nonna Longden told Lewes Crown Court: "It could not possibly have happened: there weren't any tapes."

Mr Edward Rees, counsel for Mrs Brown, had suggested to Mrs Longden that she had first demanded £20,000 and then £10,000, for the return of the tapes as a "settlement" at the end of the three-year affair.

The demands were said to have been made when Mr Brown, aged 49, MP for Edinburgh, Leith, called at Mrs Longden's flat in St Leonards, East Sussex, last April.

Mr Brown is said to have caused almost £800 damage to the flat that night, by smashing windows, mirrors and glasses. He is also accused of stealing Mrs Longden's underwear, jewellery and picture frame. He denies the charges.

The jury was played a tape recording of the police interview with Mr Brown for Edinburgh, Leith, called at Mrs Longden's flat in St Leonards, East Sussex, last April.

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Earlier, Mrs Longden had

suggested what you like but the answer is absolutely no." She insisted it was the MP, not Mr Redmond, who had "demolished" her home.

She accepted that she had financial problems after the affair with Mr Brown ended last March and that, a year earlier, she had sent domestic bills amounting to more than £2,000 to the MP's solicitor but they had, in fact, been settled.

Mr Redmond, a broker of Oriental carpets, admitted under cross-examination that he had received a three-year prison sentence 10 years ago for theft. He agreed he had staged a £20,000 "rip off" of customers who sent him money for carpets which he had not bought. He had been declared bankrupt, although this had now been discharged.

He denied Mr Rees's suggestion that he had "completely lost control of himself" and had broken up the flat because Mr Brown had visited Mrs Longden. It was Mr Brown who had caused the devastation, he said.

Woman Police Constable Christine Johnson, who had been called to the flat by Mr Redmond, told the court she and another officer had approached Mr Brown at Warwick Square station. She said Mr Brown produced the picture of Mrs Longden as a baby and asked: "Can I keep this?"

She said the MP's breath smelled of alcohol and his eyes were slightly glazed, although he told police that the only "real drink" he had had was wine in Mrs Longden's flat.

The case continues today.

"She disappeared. I waited and then she turned up with

her new boy friend. They were trying to be heavy. The two of them were threatening physical force," Mr Brown said.

"I got the keys off her. Her boy friend started being abusive. Doing all sorts of things. Throwing things. He knocked my glasses off."

"All I did was lie on the bed and wasn't getting up. I am much shorter than he is anyway. I was stunned with all this chaos. Glass flying. I was just lying there with this guy coming for me. I was still looking, at the bitter end, for my glasses with all this chaos around me."

The MP said that the damage to the flat had been caused by Mr Redmond throwing things at him. He denied that he had had much to drink.

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denied Mr Rees's suggestion that she had stuffed two pairs of her knickers into his raincoat pocket as padding for a tape recorder she was returning. She also denied giving him a picture of herself.

Mr Rees suggested that Mr Redmond had interrupted Mrs Longden's private conversation with the MP. "He saw the underwear in Mr Brown's pocket and that inflamed him," Mr Rees said. "I suggest he became hysterical and he started throwing and smashing things. I suggest he was trying to escape. I even went to the toilet to escape them."

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Which? report on service station prices

# Drivers turn their backs on 27p a gallon petrol savings

By Ruth Gledhill

Motorists could save more than 20p a gallon if they shopped around for their petrol, according to a *Which?* report published today.

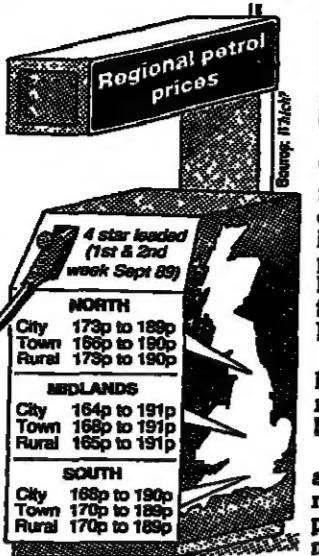
More than 130 readers of the Consumers' Association magazine who checked 1,700 service stations near their homes found price differences of up to 27p.

Three-quarters of the volunteers found differences of up to 8p in four-star petrol and about a quarter found differences of 15p to 18p; yet more than 2,300 car owners who completed a questionnaire said they did not shop around for petrol.

Almost nine out of 10 people who used one petrol station regularly did so for convenience, while only 38 per cent chose one because it offered low prices.

*Which?* says motorists could save £1 a tank if they made the effort to look for cheaper petrol, but it adds: "If you were driving an extra seven or eight miles a week just to reach the bargain, you would burn up all your savings."

However, if drivers are not particularly price-conscious, music fans certainly are.



## Stress and alcohol illnesses

### Counselling lowers costs to industry

By Ronald Faux

Stress and alcohol abuse inflict huge burdens on industry, the British Psychological Society heard yesterday.

Government-funded research by the University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, presented at the society's occupational psychology conference in Bowness, Cumbria, suggested an answer to the problems created by stress and drink.

It showed that postal workers in the North who had used a stress counselling service provided by the university had then led healthier, happier lives as a result.

Professor Cary Cooper said the counsellors operating the service had been overwhelmed by postal workers suffering work, marital or drink related stress problems.

"We had full-time counsellors in the North-east and North-west region, and our survey showed that, after counselling, sickness absence fell by half and general anxiety among workers by 30 per cent. The lifestyles of employees improved, they smoked less, drank less alcohol, coffee and Coke, took more exercise and learned to relax more."

The financial implications of that improvement, judged from a sample group of 250 postal workers, was that for every 175 employees counselled a financial saving of £100,000 resulted. Professor

Cooper said: "Industry doesn't give a damn where job satisfaction levels or the improvement of mental health are concerned. All they are interested in is the bottom line cost. I hope now they will be interested when this level of saving can be achieved."

The three-year study by UMIST was financed by the Health and Safety Executive.

It showed that with fewer young people entering the workforce in future it would become even more important for industrial managers to conserve their human resource and ensure that stress-related problems were not reducing a company's potential.

"There is no doubt that new technology, mergers, reorganisation and staff cuts that are common throughout industry produce a level of stress-related illness among workers for which industry will have to pay," he said.

Dr Andy Guppy, of the applied psychology unit, Cardiff Institute of Technology, said drink problems alone cost industry £1.5 billion a year in absenteeism, lateness and poor work performance.

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### 1,000 jobs to go in staff redundancies

Nearly 1,000 workers are to lose their jobs in a series of redundancies announced yesterday.

GEC, the electronics giant, is to cut 700 jobs at one of its subsidiaries because of a reduction in defence spending, the company said.

Posts which become vacant at the GE Avionics base in Rochester, Kent, over the next two years will not be filled.

Union officials at the base, the county's biggest employer, were told the news in a series of meetings with Mr Bill Alexander, managing director, over Christmas.

A company spokesman said: "Because of the general downturn in the defence business, contracts are not coming in as quickly as we would like."

"There will be no redundancies but we expect to lose 700 out of our 6,000 jobs over the next two years." A high proportion of business was in

as quickly as we would like."

In Wibsey, Cambridgeshire, 48 jobs are to be lost at CMB Packaging, formerly Metal Box, as part of an investment plan designed to increase efficiency.

### Insurance cover urged for dangerous dogs

By Suzy Price

An RSPCA officer has called for the owners of dangerous dogs to be forced to take out an insurance policy after a court was told that a man set his American pit bull terrier on a couple, who suffered deep flesh wounds from the attack.

"It is only right to charge a dog owner with causing grievous bodily harm if their pet attacks someone because the dog is used as a weapon," Mr Frank Milner, an RSPCA chief superintendent, said.

"These dogs are bred for aggression and strength. Some American states have banned

them, although I think this is going too far. There should be an insurance system, as in the US, where people with these kinds of dogs have to take out a \$60,000 insurance and if their dog attacks, they can be sued."

At Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday, Kenneth Aymer was jailed for six months after ordering his American pit bull terrier to "kill".

"Two men are due to appear at Bristol magistrates' court later this month charged with grievous bodily harm after allegedly setting their pit bull terrier on a police officer."

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## Science lesson from top teacher

PETER TREVOR



The Prime Minister discusses the mechanics of a grain hopper with Richard Stobbs, aged nine (left), and Ben Cackett, eight, during a visit to the Science Museum yesterday. She joined children for activities in the museum's Space Pad.

# Public's help sought in hunt for Home Counties IRA base

By Stewart Teasdale  
Crime Correspondent

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch is searching for an IRA safe house based in a Home Counties town and used by active service units behind the bombing campaign in mainland Britain over the past 18 months.

The Yard and Bedfordshire police issued a public appeal yesterday for help in tracing the house, which could be a flat or small house rented by members of the IRA unit, in the Luton area. The police do not believe that the safe house holds any explosive devices but would have been used as a base.

Luton has a big Irish population. Two

police raids were carried out in the area and in Dunstable before Christmas without results. The police said extensive inquiries suggested that Luton could be used by the active service unit.

Landlords are asked to contact them if they had Irish men or women lodgers or tenants who had disappeared in the Christmas period, leaving behind their belongings, and had not returned. Suspicion may not have been raised until now because of the holiday period.

In December 1988, the Metropolitan Police stumbled on a flat in Clapham, south-west London, which contained 150lb of Semtex high explosive, arms and bombs under construction. Detectives believe the IRA units would not

make the same mistake again of living alongside their caches.

The safe house is likely to have been used as a base from which to plan, reconnoitre or launch attacks. It could provide a wealth of clues such as maps and lists indicating possible targets and fingerprints to identify members of the unit.

Other safe houses have been uncovered in the past, often in areas of cities or towns with big transitory populations where terrorists could hide without drawing too much attention.

In Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, the public was urged yesterday to be on the lookout for possible terrorist activity in the run-up to a Conservative Party conference in March. Assistant Chief

Constable Hubert Reynolds, of the Gloucestershire police, said the force was mounting its biggest-ever security operation to safeguard the public and delegates, which will include the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers.

There have been no reports of any specific threats to the meeting of the Central Council of Conservative and Unionist Associations. However, Mr Reynolds urged the public to be the "eyes and ears" of the police in reporting anything suspicious in the town.

More than 6,000 leaflets are to be sent to hoteliers, business premises and residents close to the town hall, urging them to be vigilant. Mr Reynolds said: "I in no way wish to overstate the case, but

there is a threat. That threat can so easily be nullified by people in the community thinking differently over the next few weeks, and indicating any suspicious activities straight away."

Mr Reynolds said a top-level security operation would be in force in the streets and premises around the town hall, where the conference will be held, and the Queen's Hotel nearby, which will house delegates. Some police officers might be armed.

Mr Reynolds told a Cheltenham press conference that his force had been in contact with other police forces more accustomed to handling big political conferences.

On March 13 to 15, two weeks before

the conference, Cheltenham hosts the Gold Cup race meeting, which will be attended by thousands of Irish racegoers. Mr Reynolds said Irish people had been attending the meeting for many years and many were well known to local residents.

"The fact that the races are two weeks before the conference means there is no chance we are going to be complacent. We are leaving nothing to chance, checking on places, people and things," he said.

He added he was sure local residents would act sensibly. However, if they saw anything suspicious, they should contact the police immediately. "In two or three months' time it may be too late."

## Cardinal launches wide attack on education reforms

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Cardinal Basil Hume called on the Government last night to increase teachers' pay as he launched an attack on its education reforms, from parental power to the national curriculum, and from student loans to regular testing. He said the reforms owed more to politics than genuine educational needs.

The Archbishop of Westminster told an audience of teachers, union officials and education officers: "The pay levels of teachers are too low, administrative burdens too great, the pace of change too hectic and unsettling."

At the North of England Education Conference in Newcastle upon Tyne, he said: "No reform can be successful if imposed unilaterally from above or outside."

Cardinal Hume said he would be more sanguine about the future of education were it not for "the damaging impact of some current attitudes and approaches", and added: "I suspect that the pace and extent of recent changes owe as much to political and social considerations as to purely educational ones."

The Cardinal, a former headmaster of Ampleforth College, York, said: "The contribution of teachers, like that of parents themselves, is irreplaceable and literally priceless. Market values are inadequate as a yardstick to measure the appropriate reward for teachers... The teacher is the key to any educational reform and progress." He accepted

that schools should work efficiently and give value for money but was highly critical of changes which set schools in competition with each other. "I believe that the fostering of competition among schools and the introduction of commercial concepts is an undesirable and dangerous development."

"We need to be aware that competitive markets always create losers, and as a society we cannot afford to allow any schools which meet a local need to lose out. If we do, we are damaging the pupils at those schools, the education they should have and which it is within our power to provide."

He said: "Pressures in schools created by the demands of examinations, the new National Curriculum and the regular testing of pupils encourages the tendency to place increasing emphasis on

certain kinds of learning and the acquisition of specific skills. It can deaden creativity, neglect human and affective growth and lead to a somewhat lopsided education effort. That kind of distortion does not show up in examination results; its effects are felt later in emotional and spiritual deprivation and sometimes in anti-social behaviour."

Cardinal Hume, who has

only just accepted the wishes of parents at a school in his diocese, has opted out of local authority control, said teachers relied on the support of parents, adding: "What takes place in the home is vital and far outweighs in importance the growing power of parents in the running of the school."

The partnership between parents, school and community was "unique and must be safeguarded from the disruption that arises when one of these parties arrogates power to itself".

He said he recognized that the Government was making considerable efforts to extend and improve the quality of training available for 16 to 18-year-olds, but said: "I believe it is vital that both the non-academic and the academic students should stay on after 16... whatever their ability or social circumstances."

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will defend the reforms when he addresses the conference tomorrow.

Leading article, page 13

## Labour calls for teacher inquiry

By Douglas Broom and Richard Ford

The Labour Party called on the Government yesterday to set up an independent inquiry into teacher shortages after publishing figures which suggested that 12,700 teachers had resigned their posts in the four months to Christmas.

The estimate was based on a telephone survey by party officials. Although they admitted privately it was far from perfect, they said the Government had no official figures to contradict its findings.

In a letter to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said the Government's latest figures on teacher supply were 12 months out of date.

The present lack of reliable and up-to-date information is seriously hampering informed policy debate on teacher shortages," he said. He urged the minister to set up an inquiry to be overseen by the Royal Statistical Society to establish the true position.

Although the Labour figures attempt to show the number of teachers handing in their notice in the autumn term, they give no clue as to how many of them were leaving the profession rather than moving to other teaching jobs.

Mr Straw's allegations provoked an uncharacteristically angry response from Mr

MacGregor, who described the Labour survey as "inaccurate" and accused Labour of "scaremongering".

The number of teachers leaving the profession had remained steady at about 4,000 a year, or 1 per cent of the workforce, for many years and Labour had produced no figures to show that the situation was getting worse.

• The Universities Funding Council set out yesterday its "price list" for degree courses in the 1990s. Under new legislation, universities will have to bid for a share of government funding. Allocations will be made to the bidders offering the lowest realistic cost per student.

The council published yesterday the "guide prices" against which bids will be judged, ranging from £2,200 a year a student for politics, law and social studies to £9,400 for clinical dentistry.

Bids above the guide price will be ignored but universities that bid well below will have to show that teaching quality will not be affected.

Funding for research will continue to be provided on a block grant basis, but the council hopes the system will enable universities to meet a Government target of a 10 per cent increase in students by 1992 without adding to costs.

The council's refusal to allow head teachers to expel pupils meant there were "a great many violent teenagers still in Manchester schools".

## Racism 'is still rife in schools'

By Our Education Reporter

Racial discrimination and discipline are rife in Manchester schools more than three years after the playground murder of an Asian boy aged 13, a Conservative leader said yesterday.

Mr John Kershaw, deputy leader of the Tory group on Manchester City Council, blamed the controlling left-wing Labour group for refusing to support schools which tried to tackle racial violence.

An inquiry team, set up by the city council to look into the stabbing of Ahmed Ullah at Burnage High School in 1986, published the full text of its report yesterday in spite of warnings from the city council and the Government that the report was libelous.

The fall also highlights how international measures aimed at curbing the build-up of debris appear to be working.

Mr Bill Djinis, Nasa's project manager for orbital debris, said:

"He said sun flares in the past few months had been among the highest recorded, heating the upper reaches of the Earth's atmosphere and causing it to distend and thicken.

Consequently, some of the debris just beyond the upper reaches of the atmosphere, including flecks of paint, chips of metal and possibly even a pair of astronaut gloves, have been vapourised.

Mr Djinis said the space community, including Nasa, the European Space Agency, Japan and the Soviet Union,

was pursuing more careful policies. Controlled satellite explosions were being carried out to shunt most of the debris into the Earth's atmosphere rather than showering it into orbit at speeds up to 20,000 miles an hour.

"We have also got a situation where boosters are being designed so that the inadvertent explosions which happened a few years ago do not occur," Mr Djinis said. Figures showed that as of December 29, the number of tra-

ckable satellites, including communication and land imaging craft, could survive the barrage of particles.

Researchers first began monitoring space objects in 1957, after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, when just two objects were seen.

Mr Djinis stressed there was little room for complacency over the problem which, it had been claimed, could turn the space around Earth into a no-go zone for manned missions.

Some scientists have claimed that only armoured

satellites, including communication and land imaging craft, could survive the barrage of particles.

Researchers first began monitoring space objects in 1957, after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, when just two objects were seen.

Mr Djinis said the effect could not be underestimated. A particle measuring less than 0.2 centimetres had broken glass on a space shuttle window during a recent mission.

Dr John Mason, the British astronomer, said: "Just a pound of space junk travelling at, say, a modest 100 miles per hour hits a craft with the force of a 50-ton locomotive moving at the same speed".

Columbia will attempt to rescue the Long Duration Exposure Facility which has been stranded in space with experiments, including some from the universities of Kent and Reading, on board.

Mr Djinis said they may give some of the best evidence yet on the extent of the small particle threat. He disclosed that the US had earmarked funds for a new radar system capable of spotting items as small as one centimetre at a distance of up to 500 kilometres.

"There is now an awareness that we have got to try and stop the amount of debris increasing," he said.

Diagram showing amount of space debris encircling Earth.

## Brittan sees EC move to rural environment aid

By John Young

A fundamental change in the European Community's common agricultural policy, which would divert funds from price support for farmers to environmental protection and rural development, was foreshadowed yesterday by Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission.

Sir Leon made clear that the present price cartel, which isolated producers from competition and disadvantaged consumers, was indefensible. However, continued reform of the CAP had to be combined with recognition that it was perfectly legitimate to use taxpayers' money to support environmental measures and to stimulate new employment opportunities in the countryside.

Addressing the Oxford Farming Conference, Sir Leon said that the establishment of the single market in 1992 would bring big changes to the economies of all member countries.

Some countries were likely to be tempted to step in to help certain sectors, but if that happened to any extent it would negate the programme.

It was clear that full and fair competition did not exist in agriculture, he said. There was no single market in the EC because of the "green" currency system, and the EC market was effectively isolated from the world market because of its tariffs, import levies and quotas.

Producers in different member states were subject to different sets of rules. Certain markets such as those for milk and sugar were effectively confined to existing producers because of quota systems.

Because of intervention systems and other market price support systems something close to a price cartel operates," he said. "Market prices are not doing their job of bringing producers and consumers together."

The splendid provisions in the Treaty of Rome, which prohibit price

cartels, market-sharing arrangements and abuses of market-dominant positions, lose nine-tenths of their force once they come within hauling distance of the farm gate."

Sir Leon acknowledged that the agricultural market could not be left entirely to its own devices because the result would be severe shortages alternating with surpluses. However, accepting that government had some role in markets was far from accepting that such rules should ignore all the basic principles of competition.

There were other legitimate reasons for government intervention in agriculture, which were not related to easing market fluctuations, he said. There was nothing wrong with choosing to aid farmers for environmental or rural depopulation reasons.

Some farmers felt that aid paid other than through price support should be treated with suspicion, but he believed that was a profoundly misconceived objection. "Farmers

sometimes say they do not want to be park keepers," Sir Leon said. "That is the wrong way of looking at things."

"The environment that the public want to keep was created by farmers. There should not be nothing unattractive or unobjectionable about being paid to farm as we keep the countryside as it is," he said.

Dr Ruth Gesson, of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of London, said that many small family farms were able to remain in business only because farming was combined with other paid activities. Relatively few farmers or their wives had the qualifications to find well-paid work elsewhere.

As a result, part-time farming in future was likely to become dominated by newcomers who had jobs elsewhere and bought farms as a side-line. Farmers who did not rely on agriculture for income could afford to farm in ways that were friendly to the environment.

## Boyne dispute faces Haughey

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Mr Charles Haughey, whose self-styled "Green" presidency began on Monday, is facing the first test of his environmental bona fides over a dispute at the site of the Battle of the Boyne.

Mr Haughey is being asked to overturn a decision by the Irish Planning Board to allow a 50-acre shale quarry to be developed on the site in the Boyne Valley at Donore, near Drogheda, on the Co Meath/Co Louth border.

The decision by the board has enraged local residents and public bodies such as the Irish Tourist Board, the National Trust and the Office of Public Works because an earlier decision was quashed in the High Court on the grounds that the board had not taken

sufficient account of the battle site.

This time, however, the board believes it has ruled out any further recourse to legal action by protesters by acknowledging in its decision that the quarry would be "situated in an area associated with the Battle of the Boyne."

The decision adds that the quarry would occupy only a small part of the area.

A spokesman said yesterday: "The board is fully aware of where the battle took place... it took that into consideration, but still came to its decision that it should grant permission."

The campaign against the developers is being led by the Boyne Valley Residents' Association. Mr

Philip Dillon, one of its leaders, said Mr Haughey had so far paid "a lot of lip service" to the notion of a "Green presidency" for Europe. Now was a chance for him to prove it.

Another campaigner, Mrs Brigid Simonovich, who lives on the edge of the site, said the area was also of profound archaeological significance and close to a proposed national "archaeological park", part of a scheme originated by the Taoiseach himself.

Mrs Simonovich, originally from Co Tyrone, said the Battle of the Boyne was the last great battle in Ireland, fought in a European context and it should be preserved, particularly in what is its tercentenary year.

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# Inside the nerve centre of the thought police

From Roger Boyes  
Bucharest

Mr Aurel Dumitrescu, an electrician who is Romania's version of Mr Lech Walesa, said: "This is where the Securitate listened to our thoughts." Inside the small, stuffy room in the August 23 factory in Bucharest, there were 24 miniature tape recorders. "If there was a meeting in any room of the factory," said Mr Dumitrescu, aged 43, the workers' revolutionary leader, "they could listen to every conversation, every whisper. There was buds everywhere."

The Romanian revolution, some claim, was a revolution without workers. But that is a partial picture. The casualty lists from Brasov and Timisoara show a high proportion of workers killed and injured. On the morning of December 22, Mr Dumitrescu led 50 workers out of his factory towards the Central Committee building. The foreman screamed: "I'll sack you all!"

By the time they reached the centre the

March was already 2,500-strong, all workers who had laid down their tools to demonstrate against Nicolae Ceausescu. "Down with the criminal", "Down with the shoemaker", said the placards in the now-familiar description of the dictator.

## Factory results were based on a fantastic pyramid of deception

carriages, was Ceausescu's favourite

Mr Dumitrescu, a beaming bearded man with a Kalashnikov and two spare rounds of ammunition in the corner, explained: "This is how it worked. We can make maybe 300 to 500 engines a year, but the management claimed that we made 1,000. Ceausescu, before he

would come on a visit — the last one was

three weeks ago — would tell the minister: 'Only 1,000? It should be 2,000.'

"Then he came and told the workers: 'I see you have the capacity for 4,000. And by the time he left he was talking about 10,000 engines.'

Economic results were based on a fantastic pyramid of deception, each official changing production figures upwards until Ceausescu's dream could be realized. Industrial production was scheduled to grow at an unrealistic 6.8 per cent in Romania last year, but the factory, as Ceausescu's favourite, was supposed to turn in a 32.2 per cent increase. The targets were nonsensical, and dishonesty was built into every part of the system.

Romanian workers, though, have a tradition of resistance in the Jiu Valley and in Brasov. But had to be quiet; minuscule compared to that in Poland or even East Germany. The police were everywhere.

Only one worker in the August 23

factory had the courage to refuse to vote for the re-election of Ceausescu as party chairman last year.

At 3pm, when he finished work on that day, he was picked up by secret agents and taken to police headquarters, where he was forced to sit in special chairs that transmitted debilitating radioactive waves into his body. He was also, of course, sacked.

Inside the Securitate room — the only one in the factory to have an oil heater — there was a computer containing secret files on every worker. The information was passed selectively to the Communist Party cell in the factory. Until yesterday morning, there were soldiers and tanks surrounding the factory. Two mysterious men in a white Lada car had driven past the gates a few days earlier and sprayed the place with automatic gunfire. They tried a second time, and were killed. One corps had a Securitate pass.

Now gaggles of young factory workers

woolly hats and padded anoraks, they chain-smoke and josh a militiaman (though from this week the militia are supposed to be called police) as he comes to the porter's kiosk.

"I want to talk to Comrade Ionescu".

"Not Comrade anymore!" they all shout, and one lets out a rebel yell.

## The nation's workers had suddenly hated Ceausescu for years

Romanian workers seem genuinely to support the revolution. There is none of the sudden, suspicious conversion of the intellectuals. They have suddenly hated Ceausescu for years.

"Of course we all work much better now after the revolution," says a welder, aged 50. It will take some time, though, before the factory, indeed the whole of Romanian industry, will be able to make

up for the loss of a day's work per week. The revolutionary leadership has announced a five-day working week, but output is geared to six or even seven days. Mapping out new democratic structures in the factory is also a problem. At the moment the managing director — democratically elected yesterday — is required to submit every important decision to Mr Dumitrescu, who was also voted in by the 20,000 workforce. But anything beyond that is still unknown territory for the Romanian workers.

Free trade unions are planned, but how should they function? Mr Dumitrescu is appealing to Solidarity experts in Poland to come to Romania to advise him on how to set up an independent union movement and worker self-management. But unlike Mr Walesa, he has no ambition yet to lead a national movement. "First, every factory has to work out its own democratic pattern."

## Controversy over the 'people's uprising'

# Top army man denies coup claim

By Michael Horsby  
in Bucharest and  
Our Foreign Staff

A senior military figure in the new Romanian Government yesterday denied that the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu was a pre-planned coup, but admitted that discontent with the previous regime had been growing in the Army for many years.

"The Army did not do anything beforehand to trigger off the revolution. It was a spontaneous uprising, and the Army immediately gave its support to the people," Lieutenant-General Vasile Ionel, the newly appointed Chief-of-Staff of the Army and First Deputy Minister of Defence, said.

In the first press conference by a top military official, the general also disclosed that 196 "officers and petty officers" had been killed during fighting with security police still loyal to Ceausescu. He gave no figure for ordinary soldiers killed, but said 450 army personnel had been wounded.

The National Salvation Front, the loose grouping of intellectuals, reform Communists and military men now running the country, has insisted that the overthrow of Ceausescu was the outcome of a burst of popular anger ignited by his regime's brutal suppression of street demonstrations.

There have been strong suggestions, however, that the front was formed at least six months before the revolution. The main evidence is a video-recording of a meeting of leaders of the front on December 22, the day Ceausescu fell, in which General Nicolae Mineti, the new Minister of Defence, seems to say that the front had been in existence "for six months", which suggests a measure of preparation and conspiracy.

Yesterday M. Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, fuelled the controversy by saying in Paris that France, and probably the Soviet Union, had been told as long ago as last summer of the existence of a group of Communist Party members hostile to the Ceausescu regime.

Interviewed by the French Europe-1 radio network, M Dumas said: "I knew because the Ambassador there did his job. They (the Soviet authorities) undoubtedly knew, too."

When these claims first emerged, Mr Petre Roman, the Romanian Prime Minister, immediately denied them, saying the front was "a spontaneous movement" which had had "no prior organization".

General Ionel said yesterday: "I can say categorically that General Mineti did not ever say the Army was preparing a coup d'état six months before. The revolution was spontaneous, but it is true that discontent had been building up for years."

This discontent, the general said, had been caused by Ceausescu's mistreatment of the Army — notably by using



Women street cleaners clearing snow in front of a tank, outside the offices being used by the interim Government in Bucharest.

troops as workers on grandiose building projects — while the security police had received higher pay and better equipment and training.

But Captain Mihai Lupoi, the army officer who was this week named Minister for Tourism, said in an interview published yesterday by *Le Figaro*, the French daily, that the front "was in fact set up a long time ago" although it had only come really to life on the barricades during the uprising.

The new Government's determination to preserve the image of a wholly spontaneous popular uprising reflects sensitivity to criticism that many of its members are former Communists who fell out with the former dictator and, it is alleged, had merely been waiting for the most opportune moment to strike back — an opportunity which the street protests finally provided.

But M Dumas, who is to visit Romania officially later this month, called the controversy "a bogus quarrel which in many ways is inappropriate".

"It is true that politicians had to prepare for the (Ceausescu) aftermath. But it is also true that the uprising did the rest and allowed them to take power."

Another sensitive issue is the extent to which troops



General Ionel: "Army did nothing to trigger uprising."

joined the security police in suppressing demonstrations before the Army's dramatic switch of allegiance, which was to prove the key to the revolution's success.

The Army, he insisted, was not playing a political role. Its function was "to defend the people against terrorists", and it would be withdrawn fully to barracks only once all threats to the public peace had been removed. It would continue for the time being to guard strategic buildings.

There is no doubt, however, that the interim Government appointed by the National Salvation Front reflects the Army's strong influence. As well as the Ministry of Defence, the Army controls the Ministry of National Economy, which is in the charge of General Atanasiu Stanescu, a Deputy Defence Minister.

General Ionel said yesterday that General Stanescu had been appointed because he was "trusted" and because he had relevant experience and not because there was any plan to militarize the economy.

But he was also influenced by a worrying event last Sunday. Having taken his personal files home from security police headquarters to study them, there was a knock on the door. Army officers, he said, had come to demand the return of the documents. His fear of the authorities had revived.

Models and dancers were recruited to ply businessmen with alcohol and sex to coax information from them, according to Elisabeta, aged 25, who says she worked as a Bucharest prostitute for six years.

She said: "The girls were given protection by the Securitate and the

Securitate ran prostitute spies

Bucharest (Reuters) — Romania's hated secret police ran an army of high-class prostitutes to steal secrets and church contracts with foreign businessmen, Bucharest prostitutes say.

That, in turn, built a mood of deep fear and suspicion among Romanians, leaving lingering apprehension about the future. Mr Pavaloia said he had not removed.

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She said: "The girls were given protection by the Securitate and the

# Mushrooming parties try to beat Front's deadline

From Anatol Lieven, Bucharest

Among a plethora of political alternatives, the formation of two new parties was announced in Romania yesterday — the Ecological Party and the Romanian Democratic Party.

The haste with which new parties are being formed reflects a five-day deadline set at the weekend by the Front for National Salvation.

Both new groups are unhappy with this haste and the declaration of April as the date for free elections. The Democrats are calling for a postponement until the autumn in order to give themselves and other parties time to organize.

The Democrats seem intent on offering a social democratic alternative to the National Peasants' Party, which observers believe will probably end up with a basically conservative orientation.

The Democrats or some other group could fill the vacuum on the left created by the complete collapse of the Communist Party, some of whose members have announced that they will hold a "special congress" to wind up the party. This is eagerly awaited because when the party is dissolved, its properties, including above all printing presses and other propaganda instruments, may be distributed among the new parties.

Speaking to the press in Bucharest yesterday, the

Democrats' spokesman, Mr Nicolae Costel, said that the new party will have a "strongly social democratic orientation". He said that neither he nor the party leader, Mr Adrian Stefanescu, were ever Communist Party members, but that the new party was prepared to accept former Communists who have a "clear conscience".

Mr Costel said that "several hundred people" have already applied to become members. The leadership of the party, like that of the Front for National Salvation and the

Bucharest (Reuters) — Romanians will be allowed to travel freely to the West, Captain Mihai Lupoi, the Minister of Tourism, said yesterday. "Everybody will be able to apply for a passport and get it within one day," he said.

National Peasants' Party, is in the hands of intellectuals. Mr Costel is a teacher and Stefanescu a classical actor.

The leaders of the Democrats clearly see the Front for National Salvation as a potential opponent in the elections.

Mr Costel said yesterday that this was one reason why the elections must be postponed, until September or October, because otherwise the Front, with its complete control of television and radio, will have a huge advantage.

# Jews argue over rabbi who made peace with a dictator

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

In the aftermath of the Romanian revolution most people who have retained positions of authority held during the Ceausescu years are trying to come to terms with their failure or inability to resist the dictator.

The case of Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Romania, who has held the position for the past 41 years, is different, though. Unlike most of his compatriots, Rabbi Rosen is the subject of a sharp debate outside Romania over his behaviour under the tyranny.

Strong differences have emerged among Jews in Britain and elsewhere as to whether he should be seen as a hero of the Jewish people or, as one British rabbi put it yesterday, "a man who made a pact with the Devil".

He has been credited with securing the best conditions enjoyed by Jews in any part of Eastern Europe before the recent liberalization. During his period in office 400,000 Romanian Jews have emigrated to Israel. But he has also been attacked for remaining silent on human rights abuses and for giving a favourable impression of the regime in speeches and interviews abroad.

Doubts have also emerged

over the way he obtained his position in 1948 and whether he was adequately qualified for it.

Chief Rabbi Rosen, aged 77, says that he never acted improperly and that there was good reason not to show his dislike of Nicolae Ceausescu.

He said those who were helped by the Chief Rabbi to emigrate would understandably have a favourable view, but those who stayed behind were subjugated by him.

In May 1988, however, when Chief Rabbi Rosen celebrated his 40th anniversary in office, Lord Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi of Britain, paid tribute to him as "a legend in his own lifetime, assured of an immortal place in the annals of our people".

One irony of Chief Rabbi Rosen's life work is that it has left him with only a tiny flock to whom to minister. Before the Second World War there were 800,000 Jews in Romania; now 20,000 remain, of whom two-thirds are over 50.

Chief Rabbi Rosen, commenting last week on reports of US and Israeli government payments to Romania in exchange for letting Jews go, said: "I suppose it's true. I do not have the right to say anything. Every Jew will say that he heard this."

Minstrel had worked in the town as the leader of a band that could be hired to provide the music and singing for occasions such as weddings. So he owned one of the few loudspeaker systems permitted in a town where, as in the rest of Romania, ordinary people could not even own a megaphone.

"He helped us a lot — he really was a leader," Mr Pavaloia said of Minstrel, because he allowed his loudspeaker system to be used to rally support for the uprising.

Only after Minstrel had been elected to a revolutionary committee running the town after Ceausescu's fall did other people denounce him and force him to withdraw, Mr Pavaloia said.

Minstrel could not be contacted but, in a letter to the local newspaper in Focani, he objected to his dismissal from the new revolutionary committee, saying he was a true revolutionary.

According to the incomplete files

made available to reporters here, Minstrel made his first report about his friend to a Lieutenant Predescu at the Rosa safe house, on July 13, 1977.

The files contain authorizations for wiretaps from May 23, 1979, to November 23, 1979, and from June 9, 1981, to October 9, 1981. Mail intercepts included copies of letters sent from France in 1985 and 1986. The documents were marked "classified" on letterheads which ran the Securitate and the Department of State Security.

The tapping was requested, according to the documents, to determine "with what persons the target has telephone contacts, their telephone numbers, if there are discussions of a hostile character toward the policy of the party and if there are any indications that we can find about the intentions of the target to leave the country illegally".

New York Times

# Secret files reveal betrayal by 'friends' in service of the state

From Alan Cowell  
Bucharest

When Mr Doru Pavaloia, a Romanian economist, met an old classmate some years ago he let slip that he would like to leave the country.

What Mr Pavaloia did not realize was that the man he knew as a friend and a popular singer in his home town of Focani, about 100 miles north-east of Bucharest, was also known to the regime's pervasive Securitate by the code name Minstrel.

During the revolution, Mr Pavaloia joined others in storming the security police headquarters in Focani. In a bunker he came across a secret file on a Securitate officer in July 1977 at an intelligence safe house codenamed Rosa.

It documented much about his life, including the supposed sexual activity of his first wife before their marriage, and was part of 12 years' covert surveillance, mail interceptions and telephone taps designed to determine his loyalties and

huge resources were diverted to the detection of

Police

# Modrow concessions save talks

From Anne McElroy, East Berlin

Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, satisfied opposition demands yesterday to stave off the collapse of the round-table talks on the country's future.

New Forum, the leading opposition group, had threatened to pull out of the talks unless the communist-led Government promised an increased role for opposition groups in formulating policy.

Herr Modrow said all groups involved would now be fully informed of the Government's legislative plans.

Without the presence of New Forum, the talks would have been in danger of collapse and Herr Modrow was evidently anxious to keep the opposition satisfied.

New Forum had feared that the Government was using the talks — which aimed to prepare for the first free elections in May — to strengthen its own shaky position while failing to share power with other organizations and parties.

Professor Jens Reich, the New Forum spokesman, accused the Government of using the talks "more as a reassurance for the population than a truly informative session". He also said that the Government had concealed from participants the extent of the country's economic problems.

New Forum refused to take part in private talks, between the Government and other opposition groups and smaller parties on Tuesday, and criticized the practice of discussing the agenda in private before yesterday's session. There were also heated exchanges when opposition groups accused the Government of treating former state security employees too liberally.

Professor Christa Luft, the Minister for the Economy, told the round-table participants that the country's economic performance had been "negative" in recent years and admitted that foreign debt was now well in excess of \$20.5 billion (£10.55 billion). She said that a deficit in hard currency meant that further loans would be necessary to survive.

The Government also announced that rises in the prices of electricity and brown coal would be necessary this year to avoid power cuts. Frau Luft said that a false

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Easier passage for Argentine ships

Señor Domingo Cavallo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, announced yesterday that Britain had dropped requirements for commercial ships from Argentina to seek permission before entering the 150-mile protection zone around the Falkland Islands (Andrew McEwan, Diplomatic Editor, writes). The step was one of a number of confidence-building measures agreed between the two countries at talks in Madrid in October, but at the time it was not announced that it would take effect from January 1.

At the same time Britain increased the territorial limit around the Falklands from three miles to 12 miles, in spite of objections by Buenos Aires. However, the Argentine Government has proposed legislation to reserve its own legal position. Under Argentine law, the sovereignty which it claims over the islands will involve a 12-mile limit.

### Yard man in Kenya

Nairobi (AP) — Chief Superintendent Ken Thompson, of Scotland Yard, travelled to the Masai Mara game reserve yesterday to investigate the murder in 1988 of Miss Julie Ward, a 28-year-old British woman. According to the British High Commission the visit, which began last Tuesday, was a familiarization trip to talk to Kenyan officials, read court transcripts and study files on the case before returning to Britain this weekend. He expects to return to Kenya later to pursue the investigation.

### Hanoi leader to quit

Hanoi (Reuters) — Mr Nguyen Van Linh, the Vietnamese Communist Party Secretary-General, will resign at a forthcoming party meeting. Vietnamese officials said yesterday. Officials said Mr Linh, who is 74 and has been ill since late October, would step down from the party's top post for health reasons at a plenum of its central committee. They said the meeting, which would be held within two months, would accept his resignation and agree to a replacement. But any decision on his successor would have to be approved at a full congress of party members next year.

### Pull-out from Soweto

Johannesburg — The South African Police are to withdraw from Soweto, the vast township outside Johannesburg, their big, cumbersome armoured personnel carriers that have become synonymous with tough action against black demonstrators (Ray Kennedy writes). Major-General Johan Swart, the new police chief for the area, said that he hoped the public would see this as a "tangible sign of goodwill on behalf of the police". He added: "I want the people of Soweto to believe that the police only wish to carry out their normal duties."

### New tanker spill fear

Rabat (Reuters) — Storms building up in the Atlantic threaten to break up a crippled Iranian supertanker and spill 200,000 tonnes of crude oil into the sea off the Moroccan coast, official sources said yesterday. The weather was expected to worsen in the next 24 hours, causing a sea swell that would make floating booms useless in efforts to save holiday beaches and fishing grounds from serious pollution. About 70,000 tonnes of oil have already poured from the listing 284,632-tonne Kharg-5 tanker, holed by fire and explosion 15 days ago, and crippled with jammed steering.

### Deaf-mute gamblers

Taipei (Reuters) — Taiwan police have uncovered a gambling den of deaf-mutes whose most important tool was a facsimile machine. Police in the city of Hsinchu said yesterday they had recently smashed the ring, made of scores of deaf-mutes. The club used a facsimile machine to communicate the details of each gambling session.



Herr Wolfgang Gross, the East German State Secretary, and Professor Christa Luft, the Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister, arriving for the talks with the opposition.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

# Surprise Botha visit may lead to Budapest links

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, arrived suddenly in Hungary yesterday for official talks, his first visit to a Warsaw Pact country.

MTI news agency said that he was expected to meet Mr Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, and leaders of the country's new non-communist opposition parties during his two-day stay.

The visit could eventually lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and it appeared linked with a campaign by Pretoria to persuade skilled workers in Eastern Europe, disenchanted with life under communism, to emigrate to South Africa.

The Department of Foreign Affairs issued a vague statement in Pretoria yesterday saying that Mr Botha was visiting Hungary to acquaint

himself with developments there and other Eastern European countries and to tell them what was going on in South Africa. The statement added that Hungary was the only country Mr Botha would visit on his current trip.

For years anybody remotely connected with the South African Government has been *persona non grata* in any Soviet bloc country.

The trip would have been unthinkable a year ago before the reformist wave engulfed Eastern Europe and South Africa started to break its international isolation under a programme of apartheid reforms launched by President de Klerk. Mr Botha is totally backing President de Klerk and his declared aim to abolish apartheid.

South Africa has a considerable Hungarian population, most of them refugees and their children who fled after the 1956 revolution. Many

have become South African citizens. Many of them have found their political roots with the white extremist Conservative Party.

Hundreds of East Europeans are reported to have responded to Pretoria's recruitment campaign aimed at reducing South Africa's chronic shortage of skilled workers, particularly in the mining industry.

South African newspapers reported yesterday that Pretoria's diplomatic missions in Europe were working flat out to process hundreds of applications from people considering emigrating following the easing of border controls.

In South Africa, Mr Botha's visit is being viewed by some observers through a long political telescope. It is expected that Mr de Klerk will at some stage reward him for his loyalty with the restored office of Prime Minister.

## Albania 'staying on course'

From Mario Mediano, Athens

Albania, the only communist country in East Europe so far not to have been visibly influenced by the winds of change unleashed by *perestroika*, has said it will stay on its present course.

"Albania is not East Europe," Mr Izet Hajdini, the Albanian Ambassador to Greece said in an interview in yesterday's issue of the Athens daily, *Eleftherotypia*. "We liberated ourselves without Soviet help and followed our own road to development. We

do not face the same problems." Anyone who believes what happened in Romania can be repeated in Albania, is day-dreaming, the ambassador said. *Perestroika* was irrelevant to Albania which cherishes its freedom and independence. This was why Albania had denied the Russians military bases.

"All that the superpowers can offer the small countries is an umbrella," he added, "and the choice of its colour — red or blue. We want to have our

own small umbrella and use it whenever we wish, not just when it rains in Moscow."

Mr Hajdini said Albania believed the changes in East Europe had been brought about on orders from Moscow. "I believe Gorbachov's theory and practice ... are a betrayal of communism and the restoration of capitalism."

The ambassador denied there was any turmoil in his country. He dismissed as invention press reports about protest rallies and opposition.

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# Scientists reject key Fuchs role in Soviet bomb

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor



Fuchs: Secrets "worse than worthless"

Two nuclear weapons experts have concluded that the development of the hydrogen bomb by the Soviet Union owed almost nothing to information provided by Klaus Fuchs, the British "atom spy". This counters the conventional wisdom that Fuchs passed essential secrets on H-bomb manufacture to the Russians in the early post-war years.

In a new analysis, published in this month's issue of *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, a leading American journal, Dr Daniel Hirsch and Dr William Mathews of the University of California at Santa Cruz, California, say that the information which Fuchs possessed on

US thermonuclear weaponry was outdated and inaccurate.

It has been a long-standing mystery how the Russians managed to explode an H-bomb so soon after the Americans, one whose solution may have gone to the grave with Andrei Sakharov, the dissentient Soviet scientist known as the "father of the Soviet H-bomb", who died last month. Fuchs died in East Germany two years ago.

The scandal surrounding secrets Fuchs divulged to Moscow caused a huge rift between Washington and London when he was caught in January 1950. Exchange of sensitive nuclear information between the US and Britain stopped for a decade after the discovery of the espionage by Fuchs, who was head

of theoretical physics at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, near Oxford.

He also worked on the Manhattan Project that produced atomic bombs during the Second World War, two of which were dropped on Japanese cities.

But Fuchs left the American weapons programme in 1946, and therefore had access only to the faulty hydrogen bomb ideas then current.

Drs Hirsch and Mathews write that the spy was unaware of two subsequent ideas of Dr Stanislaw Ulam, a mathematician at the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico, and one by Dr Edward Teller, a physicist at Los Alamos, which were critical to the success of the invention. According to their *Bulletin*

article, "it is now clear that the 'secrets' regarding the H-bomb known to Fuchs were worse than worthless".

Revelations in Fuchs' confession led President Truman to speed up the American H-bomb project. The Americans were convinced that Fuchs' treachery had saved Moscow at least 10 years' research on the H-bomb.

However, the United States was horrified when the Russians detonated their first H-bomb in 1955, only three years after the Americans demonstrated the superweapon.

The California doctors speculate suggest that Sakharov's team deduced the crucial secret of the H-bomb by analysing radioactive fallout from American nuclear tests. They say that the British

discovered it from the Americans in the same way. The world's first hydrogen bomb was detonated by the United States on November 1, 1952, at Enewetak, an island in the Pacific.

The bomb's power was about 700 times that of the atomic weapon dropped over Hiroshima. Enewetak, one mile in diameter, disappeared but a "tell-tale signature" of the composition of the bomb remained in the fallout.

The vast majority of nuclear weapons in the world today are hydrogen bombs, far more powerful than the earlier atomic bombs.

Revision of the history of the H-bomb is based on evidence that has become available to scholars in Washington under the Freedom of Information Act.

## US women troops fight real man's war in Panama

From Susan Elicott, Washington

When Captain Linda Bray, commander of the 988th Military Police Company of the United States Army, led a 12-strong platoon, including 12 of the 15 women who serve under her, into a three-hour battle on the moonlit night of her country's invasion of Panama, she had more to worry about than the implications of being the first American woman to lead troops in combat.

Barely two weeks later, however, emerging reports of her soldiers' successful capture of three members of the Panamanian Defence Forces loyal to General Manuel Noriega, the deposed leader, and the neutralization of a kennel of vicious attack-dogs have begun a debate on the future role of American women in battle. Many of the women soldiers involved said

Panama City (AP) — Church sources said that a man in a white suit, who emerged on Tuesday afternoon from the Vatican mission and was hastened away by US troops surrounding the two-storey compound, was a Cuban who was in Panama at the time of the invasion and trying to get a visa to the United States.

afterwards that the enemy was surprised to see a woman wielding a machine-gun.

The US considers itself one of the most advanced nations in the world in the integration of women in the armed services in what one Pentagon spokesman described as "gender-neutral jobs".

Only Israel boasts a greater role for women, he said, although some Navajo members, including the Scandinavian countries and The Netherlands, have been assessing women in fighter aircraft.

Women in the British Army are not permitted to have a combat role.

The Pentagon, which has repeatedly praised the performance of US troops during and after the December 20 invasion to overthrow General Noriega, says it is too soon to tell how the part played by the 600 women engaged in the intervention will affect their future role.

Certainly, though, no one can now doubt that Panama

has been good publicity for servicewomen.

The Defence Department admits that the increased technology and unpredictability of modern warfare has blurred the distinction between "combat" and "support".

According to the Pentagon, women have served in the US armed services since the turn of the century, but they were mainly restricted to medical and administrative roles until the women's movements of the 1960s fought for more equality with men.

Reflecting the changes of the past two decades, 230,000 American women are today serving on active duty, representing about 11 per cent of the total. This compares with 45,000 in 1972, or 1.5 per cent of the total.

"The notion of the trenches in a World War I sense, where there's a very clear battlefield and a middle and rear area, has become all stirred together," Major David Super, a spokesman for the US armed services, said.

The experience of Captain Bray's platoon in Panama was a textbook example of this. The 30 soldiers in her charge were ordered to neutralize a kennel of attack-dogs on the outskirts of Panama City, and they found them heavily guarded by Panamanian troops.

Captain Bray, aged 29 and weighing barely seven stone, ordered an attack and her platoon killed three members of the Panamanian Defence Forces, seized weapons and secured their objective.

One woman, Private Christina Proctor, whose father fought in Vietnam, single-handedly captured a Panamanian soldier in the battle.

"It was the first time for me, and if anybody tells you they weren't scared, they're lying," she said.

Although traditional all-male combat units — infantry, artillery and armour — did most of the fighting in Panama, three enlisted women from four other platoons in Captain Bray's company took part in some of the fiercest fighting around General Noriega's headquarters.

The operation convinced Captain Bray that women, who undergo the same train-

ing programme as men, are as capable in combat as their male colleagues. Several hundred women are stationed in Panama as part of America's permanent presence of 12,000 troops protecting the Panama Canal.

"Before all this started, I had always wondered what would happen," Captain Bray acknowledged after her historic first battle. "After this, in my opinion, there is no difference. They worked together as a team, all my soldiers."

In a boost to the Pentagon's

image, amid criticism of some aspects of the US invasion, no women were among the 23 US military personnel killed and the 323 wounded in the attack.

Captain Bray described the women's involvement as a "big step", and hoped it would

not lead to tighter rules regarding their involvement in combat. "Any female soldier in Panama, or any male for that matter, will tell you they hope not," she said.

Congresswoman Beverly Byron, the Democrat chairman of the House of Representatives sub-committee for military personnel, however, who aims to hold hearings on the role of women in combat in March, admits she is unhappy with the idea. "I'm just not comfortable with putting women on the submarines or aircraft carriers," she said yesterday. "Not that I question whether they can handle it or not."

The hearings will give women who serve in the US forces to give their views on their work.

The US invasion force has been suffering no war casualties for a week, attention in Panama is refocusing on tracking down those henchmen of General Manuel Noriega who remain at large.

Local newspapers carry sensationalist reports about such notorious fugitives as "The Black Hand" and "The Mountain Tiger".

Lieutenant-Colonel Nivaldo Madrigal and Lieutenant-Colonel Luis Cordoba, two of General Noriega's closest military allies, are also missing, as is Señora Marisol Reyes De Vásquez, the president of the Supreme Court.

Two people indicted on drug trafficking charges along with General Noriega — Colonel Luis Del Cid, former military commander of Western Pan-

ama, and Señor Daniel Miranda, a pilot — have been sent to Miami to face trial.

Another 23 people close to the deposed dictator, including Feliciada, his wife, and their three daughters, have taken refuge in the Cuban Embassy.

Panamanians are following

the hunt for fugitive Noriega

loyalists as though it were one

of the American television

series popular here, with every day bringing a new episode.

The local press delights in painting hideous portraits of the outlaws.

"Black Hand", for instance, is described as an infamous

torture-cum-taxi driver.

The 51 boat people sent

back last month were visited

in Haiphong just after Christmas by Mr E. T. Davies, the

British Ambassador to Hanoi, and were reported to be well.

Sino-British relations began

to recover by early December,

but suffered a further setback

last weekend when the Chinese Foreign Ministry de-

manded that Britain drop its

passports plan which, it said,

contravened the terms of

memoranda attached to the

1984 Sino-British Joint De-

claration on Hong Kong.

A key committee will meet

in Peking during Sir David's

visit and is expected to ap-

prove a final draft of the Basic

Law to be published in April.

It will provide for a much

more cautious approach to

direct elections than most

Chinese in Hong Kong would

like to see.



Victory sign: A beaming President Endara of Panama, flanked by fact-finding US senators, delivering his version of the Churchillian gesture in Panama City.

## Hunt for Noriega sidekicks

From James Bone, Panama City

With the US invasion force having suffered no war casualties for a week, attention in Panama is refocusing on tracking down those henchmen of General Manuel Noriega who remain at large.

Local newspapers carry sensationalist reports about such notorious fugitives as "The Black Hand" and "The Mountain Tiger".

Lieutenant-Colonel Nivaldo Madrigal and Lieutenant-Colonel Luis Cordoba, two of General Noriega's closest military allies, are also missing, as is Señora Marisol Reyes De Vásquez, the president of the Supreme Court.

Two people indicted on drug

trafficking charges along with General Noriega — Colonel Luis Del Cid, former military commander of Western Pan-

ama, and Señor Daniel

Miranda, a pilot — have been sent to Miami to face trial.

Another 23 people close to

the deposed dictator, including

Feliciada, his wife, and their

three daughters, have taken

refuge in the Cuban Embassy.

Panamanians are following

the hunt for fugitive Noriega

loyalists as though it were one

of the American television

series popular here, with every

day bringing a new episode.

The local press delights in

painting hideous portraits of

the outlaws.

"Black Hand", for instance,

is described as an infamous

torture-cum-taxi driver.

The 51 boat people sent

back last month were visited

in Haiphong just after Christ-

mas by Mr E. T. Davies, the

British Ambassador to Hanoi,

and were reported to be well.

Sino-British relations began

to recover by early December,

but suffered a further setback

last weekend when the Chinese Foreign Ministry de-

manded that Britain drop its

passports plan which, it said,

contravened the terms of

memoranda attached to the

1984 Sino-British Joint De-

claration on Hong Kong.

A key committee will meet

in Peking during Sir David's

visit and is expected to ap-

prove a final draft of the Basic

Law to be published in April.

It will provide for a much

more cautious approach to

direct elections than most

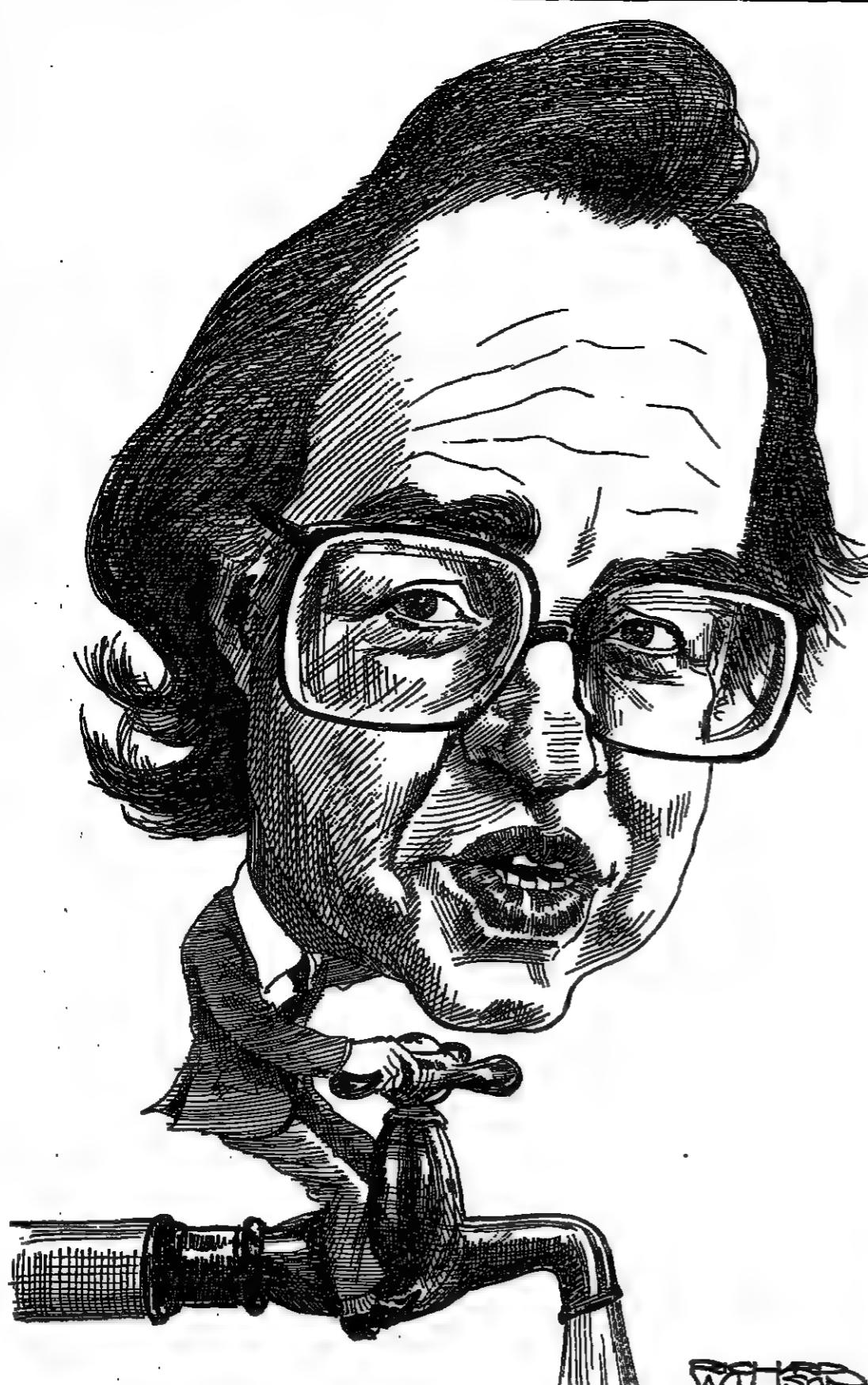
Chinese in Hong Kong would

like to see.

The fresh casualties put the

death toll since the fighting

## SPECTRUM



# A man for whom the tide came in

THE TIMES

## PROFILE

### MICHAEL HOWARD

#### BIOGRAPHY

1941: born July 7, educated Llanelli Grammar School, and Peterhouse College, Cambridge, president Cambridge Union  
 1964: Called to the Bar, Inner Temple  
 1975: Married Sandra Clare Saville Paul  
 1983: Entered Parliament as MP, Folkestone and Hythe  
 1984-85: PPS to Sir Patrick Mayhew, Solicitor General  
 1985-87: Under Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs  
 1987: Under Secretary, Department of the Environment  
 1988: Minister for Water and Planning  
 1990: Jan: Secretary for Employment

It might be said that the tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, has led Michael Howard on to fortune, has come out of the humble household tap.

The surprising success of what was potentially the most difficult of the Government's privatizations — water — has undoubtedly contributed to the sudden elevation to the cabinet of the fluent and assured lawyer as Norman Fowler's successor as Secretary of State for Employment.

As Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Howard, aged 48, was responsible for steering the controversial Water Bill through Parliament and could naturally claim much of the credit when the public share issue last month was oversubscribed.

But H2O or no H2O, Howard was on course to secure a cabinet seat before long, having been marked out as a high-flyer since election to Parliament as MP for Folkestone and Hythe in 1983.

Not only a legal mind of formidable skill, in the front rank of his generation at the Bar — he took silk in 1982 — he is also very much the type that Margaret Thatcher has singled out for advancement. To call him anything as vulgar as a self-made man might produce a brief wince, but it remains true that his background is meritocratic.

His father ran a shop selling women's fashions in Llanelli and the young Howard attended Llanelli Grammar School. There, among the preponderance of fiery socialists and Welsh Nationalists, he was radicalized to his own right-wing views by Suez. Britain had an excellent case for taking on Nasser's seizure of the canal, he believed. "I remember being most disappointed when we withdrew," he later said.

He took his politics with him to read economics, and then law at

Peterhouse, Cambridge, where they took up so much of his time that he secured only a lower second. He was president of the union in 1962 and on the union debating team which toured the United States in 1963-64. He was very much a part of the Tory political set, particularly close, and serving as best man, to the current Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Norman Lamont. But he was distinctly treacherous than traditional young Tories of the Macmillan generation, displaying a lively interest in the cinema — especially American horror movies.

His personal life also flourished after he met Sandra Paul, a model and one of the best-known faces of the Sixties, whom he married in 1975 and who has become an accomplished political hostess, besides bringing him a son, a daughter, and a stepson.

Politically, however, he languished, with the safe constituency remaining unfound for 16 years from the date of the first seat he fought. That was the 1966 election where he challenged Labour in Liverpool, Edge Hill. He repeated the exercise in 1970.

It was not until 1982 that he was duly rewarded with Folkestone and Hythe, entering Parliament at the general election the following year.

It would not be hyperbole to describe his subsequent progress as meteoric. He began to make his ministerial mark within two years, becoming "Minister for the City" — the Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As such, he

initiated the City-shaking DTI inquiry into Guinness, yet to come to its full conclusion, but made even more of a mark by piloting through the Commons the following year the immensely complex Financial Services Bill.

Howard's unflagging grasp of the most abstruse measures of legislative detail, his skill in debate and his sheer drive quickly made him a Parliamentary figure whose talents simply could not be overlooked, and in 1987 he moved up and across to the Department of the Environment with the rank of Minister of State where he employed his skills to help the Community Charge through the House.

Next Howard did the job no one wanted to take on — selling water — and his professional skill saw him through triumphantly.

But it is at the heart of what may be political vulnerability. He is a reticent man, virtually unknown to the public, and it is hard to see him establishing a high public profile. He is courteous and polite, but one does not sense warmth. He is a world away, for example, from the other Minister of State at Environment, the bluff and forthright David Trippier. Howard is not clubbable. He is not thought of by many Tory MPs as "one of us".

Steadily brilliant, tough, and ambitious, he is likely over the next decade to be in line for the highest offices. But to tip him, even after such a meteoric rise, as a future contender for the most senior job of all may be wide of the mark.

His skills are those used best in the House of Commons and the machinery of government rather than in wooing the voters. Whatever happens, though, Howard's epitaph will most definitely not be that of one whose name was written in water.

Michael McCarthy

### artfile

A weekly look at the art world

Sarah Jane Checkland

Gazing into my crystal ball, I see the art market unfolding before me. I see troubled times, with battles between rival auctioneers, between collectors, between nations. I see Paris emerging as a centre of operations, and Berlin, a booming centre in the Thirties, coming back to life. I sense fear in London, as its position is threatened.

Predictions for a decade are usually wrong. But when it comes to the Nineties, one thing is certain. The art market will be transformed by the lifting of the Iron Curtain, and the opening of the European Community.

The main issue is geographical. Which city is going to attain the status of auction capital of the world? The Eighties saw New York overtaking London in terms of auction earnings (£303 million

## London falls under the hammer

sold at auction. Likewise, there is no VAT on the import of antiques and works of art.

Soon either the rest of Europe will be brought into line with us, or a common, Europe-wide system adopted. At the moment, the British system appears to be gaining ground.

But it is anybody's guess which city will become Europe's art capital. Paris has

strengthened its hand by undercutting the "London" auction houses in charging a five per cent premium, compared with the British 10 per cent.

A number of art market observers also see Berlin as a possible rival, as it is perfectly placed for networking if Iron Curtain countries become major players in the field.

The decade will test the

become more Western, under the influence of European and American dealers. On the other hand, the market may see strange distortions, as artists like Laurencin and Foujita out of favour with Europeans, overtake traditional favourites such as Rubens.

Following the "Pontoorm effect" — the boost to the Old Master market after a painting of Cosimo de' Medici by the Mannerist artist of that name fetched £12 million in New York last year — prices in this category are likely to continue to rise.

An area requiring improvement is the protection of our own heritage. Because of the rise in market prices and the corresponding inability of our museums to pay for important items, the current system of temporary stop while museums try and raise the funds is

widely considered to be out of date.

According to Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome, which says that each member country will be allowed to apply its own rules in the case of "national treasures", this state of affairs could continue, getting gradually worse for Britain.

In a seminar last November, however, Mr Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, for the arts said: "Unless we are prepared to see any work of art, however important, move into Europe without any documentation, we will almost certainly need to adjust our control mechanisms."

The best workable solution would be for him to establish a list of works of supreme heritage importance which can never be exported, and then let the rest of the market flow freely.

## Sixty glorious years (7,7)

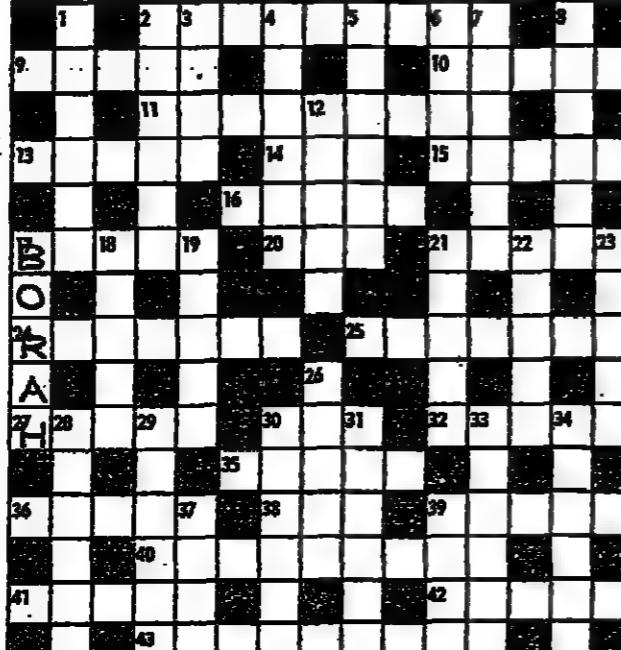
February 1 will mark the diamond jubilee of The Times Crossword Puzzle and readers may like to see how the puzzle has changed. The puzzle (below left) was No. 9, published on February 11, 1930. The puzzle (below right) is a new one, but both have the same answers. The answer to 17 down is the name of a now-forgotten American senator, but does not lend itself to a new clue. The solution will appear in The Times tomorrow. This is also the 20th year of our national crossword championship and the eighth to be held under the sponsorship of Collins

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 9

- ACROSS**  
 1 Sister Susie's war-work was temporary.  
 9 Out! this is down and out.  
 10 Bird-seer.  
 11 It would not be very singular if fishermen danced to the instrument which is in the plumb here.  
 13 A way the heavens have.  
 14 This is the limit.  
 15 This is where calves are born.  
 16 "He only does it to — because he knows it teases".  
 17 This is most attractive when it's growing.  
 20 The noisy part of the meat.  
 21 Common kind of resort.  
 24 There's not a better likeness.  
 25 Might be Mars's own nectar (perhaps).  
 27 Of the cold or the old.  
 30 May be attached to a staff.  
 32 A plaguey country.  
 35 An old medicine bottle.  
 36 A joint transaction.  
 38 12 down a little shorter and more formal.  
 39 Last.  
 40 24 across isn't if it isn't.  
 41 Lined, but not necessarily wrinkled.  
 42 Come out.  
 43 Temperance-revival, as it were.

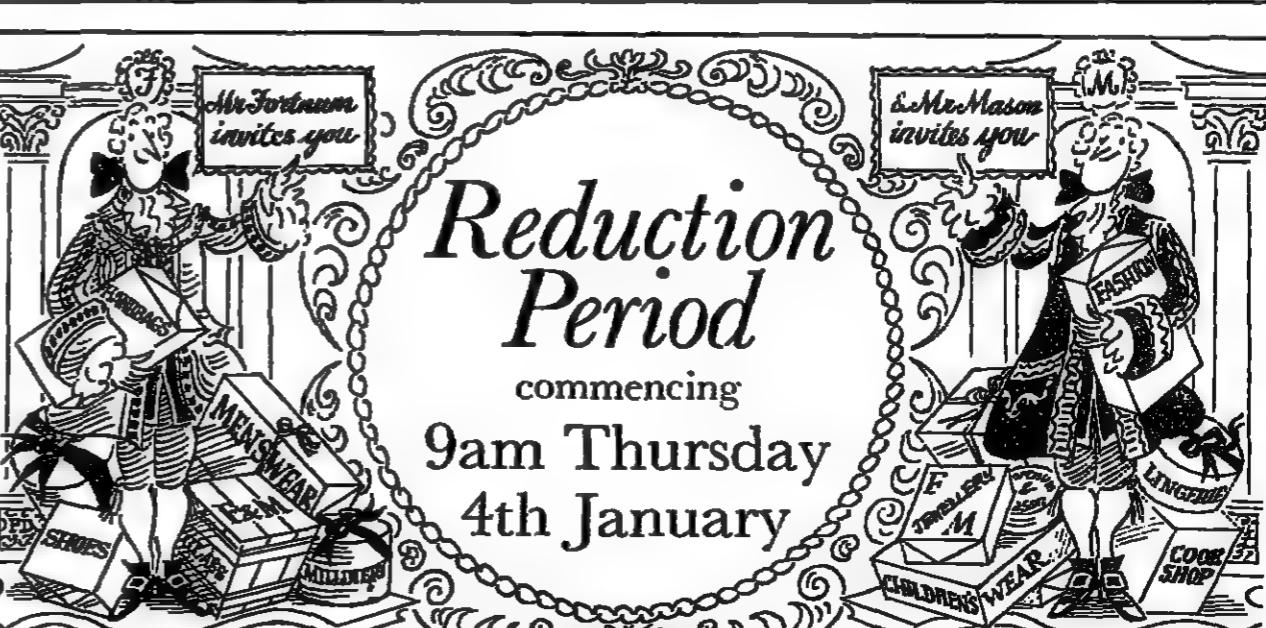
### DOWN

- 1 January is now.  
 2 Wine, proverbially, is this.  
 3 One who seems to be wasting this might benefit by going in.  
 4 Stretch out.  
 5 This place terminates in the middle.  
 6 What 10 across foretold.  
 7 Fight.  
 8 Bright.  
 12 Miss Laurie.  
 17 American senator.



### 60TH ANNIVERSARY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**  
 18 A bet on this gives all the letters you require.  
 19 13 across appropriately might help you here.  
 21 Crowd, all in order except the leader.  
 22 Famous for perfume, song and horses.  
 23 Often lost or stolen; yet one is glad to meet somebody after one's own.  
 26 Its coats are of many colours.  
 28 You can't see through this sort of thing.  
 29 Provide meals for the directors (5).  
 30 Dundee's lack of sand causes row (3).  
 31 Waste piece of land growing shrub (5).  
 32 "I am dying, — dying" (and C) (5).  
 35 Small boy clutching a small bottle (5).  
 36 It's said to produce small neat cut here (5).  
 38 Her name is on the article (3).  
 39 Top decoration one missed in the end (5).  
 40 Spitting Image is nearly all indecent material (9).  
 41 Keeps discipline with lines (5).  
 42 Spring publication (5).  
 43 Parish priest on the wagon having medical treatment (5-4).  
 44 Second half result I first discovered this January (6).  
 45 The nature of wine in the Bible — or coffee, say? (6).  
 46 Absent from a course (4).  
 47 Former minister to carry on (6).  
 48 Horse with tail pointing towards one in London town (6).  
 49 Notes of doom (4).  
 50 Scuffle for drunken sult's cigarette and (6).  
 51 Bright solution of clue on Holy Writ (6).  
 52 Musical organ (5).  
 53 A Greek star (5).  
 54 In Illyria, Dorcas set up shop (5).  
 55 A big crowd in the audio store (5).  
 56 A qualified artist could get by in the old Middle East (5).  
 57 A tickler for one in a suit (5).  
 58 Order pinta cream, perhaps (5).  
 59 Dull-witted, unlike (6).  
 60 Have another look at this magazine (6).  
 61 Church about to execute a vote-face? (6).  
 62 Married a renegade franciscan — how mad! (6).  
 63 Fish in the sea only once (6).  
 64 Publican shaks European count (6).  
 65 Dead bear's old poems (4).  
 66 Blonde — just (4).



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<b>Ladies Fashions (1st floor)</b>			<b>Menswear (3rd floor)</b>	
Edina Ronay, one third off, e.g. Check Jacket.	£325	£215	Large selection of Wool Trousers reduced to £45, e.g.	195 £45
Missoni, one third off, e.g. Knitted Suit.	£710	£470	Selection of JACKETS reduced to £145, e.g. Chester Barrie Tweed Jacket	£360 £145
Murray Arbeid, one third off, e.g. Knit Dress.	£695	£460		
Piota Lingerie, half price, e.g. Short-sleeved Nightdress	£90	£55		
<b>Fashion Accessories (1st &amp; 2nd floors)</b>			<b>China &amp; Glass (lower ground floor)</b>	
Wide variety of Ladies Shoes greatly reduced, e.g. Ferragamo Dim Hosiery, half price.	£99	£49	Selected Wedgwood Gifts	One third off
Ferragamo Belt, less than half price.	£2.99	£1.50	Selected Baccarat Gifts	One third off
Frederick Fox Millinery, half price, e.g. Model Hat	£270	£135		
<b>Perfumery (1st floor)</b>			<b>Cookshop (lower ground floor)</b>	
Christian Dior Poison — 30ml Eau de Toilette Natural Spray	Special Offer £19		Royal Worcester 'Stafford Flowers', one third off, e.g. Casserole Dish	£45 £30
<b>Children's Wear (2nd floor)</b>			Silverplated Tea Strainer, half price	£40 £20
Burberry Raincoat, half price	£100	£50	Precious Jewellery, 10%, 20% & 30% off, e.g. Rose Quartz Necklace	£18 £50

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# TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

Washington. This could be a vintage year for disgraced politicians. With 1990 only two days old, Robert Garcia, a New York congressman, resigned after being convicted of extorting \$178,500 from a defence contractor. Seven senators are under investigation. Five of them — former astronaut John Glenn, Alan Cranston, Don Riegle, Dennis DeConcini and John McCain — allegedly obstructed the closure of a failed building society, whose owner contributed \$1.3 million to their campaign funds. The delay is said to have cost the taxpayer at least \$1 billion. Minnesota's Dave Durenburger, strapped for cash, collected \$100,000 through a book deal, double the Senate limit on outside earnings. New York's Alfonso D'Amato faces about 20 charges, including improperly obtaining lucrative federal housing grants for associates.

The seven are fighting for their political lives. Cranston, who is 75, indefinitely postponed his third marriage on Christmas Eve. DeConcini of Arizona is mounting a major newspaper and television advertising campaign at his own expense, to try to clear his name. D'Amato is also launching a defence of disgraced constituents — but at the taxpayer's expense. It emerged yesterday that in six months, using his senator's right to free mailings, he sent a record 16.7 million letters which would have cost the ordinary citizen \$2.65 million.

Admiral John Poindexter, the former National Security Adviser soon to be tried for his part in the Iran-Contra scandal, has sent associates a remarkable letter. The trial is "political revenge", it says. Unable to destroy the Reagan presidency, liberals in Congress have "turned on me". They "want me silenced... bankrupt or imprisoned". Pleading poverty, Poindexter asks recipients to donate \$33, \$50, \$100 or \$500 to his fighting fund and to sign a form beginning: "Dear Admiral Poindexter, I stand behind you as you face the ridiculous charges of the liberals. America needs more patriots like you who will do their duty..."

It was at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, in 1946 that Churchill remarked: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent." President Gorbachov will be in the US this June, and Harvey Saunders, president of the college, has seized his chance. He has asked Gorbachov to visit "the place where the Cold War was first defined" to deliver the epilogue to Churchill's speech.

BARRY FANTONI



What time does the shop in the High Street open?

New Year's Eve has become a particularly perilous time for law-abiding citizens in some of America's rougher cities. In such places as Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and Detroit they must evade not only drunken drivers, but also bullets raining from the sky. More and more revellers are hailing the New Year with bursts of skyward gunfire, oblivious of the fact that falling bullets hit the ground at almost as great a velocity as when they leave the barrel. In LA, falling bullets have killed at least four people in the last three years, as well as smashing windows, denting cars and cutting through roofs. So serious is the problem that police helicopters are now grounded before midnight, and ambulances shelter under bridges. A police spokesman said LA last Sunday night still sounded like "a shooting Sunday".

Actor Charlton Heston, renowned for his conservative views, has for six years had the highest level of nuclear weapons security clearance, the US Energy Department has admitted. He needed it to narrate six classified films for scientists and defence officials. But if you think that strange, consider the double life led by Bob Nelson. During the time he heads a team which has detonated at least 30 nuclear weapons at the underground Nevada test site. At weekends he is an Episcopalian priest. As he says, "he is only a priest I know who fires nuclear weapons". He would rather they did not exist, but says they help to defend American values.

Luz, Algarve  
A Mr Brian St John Webb, yeoman of Dorset, ex-RAF, original partner of Keith Floyd in a Bristol bistro, latterly West Country wholesale wine merchant, arrived in our village on a £45 return Gatwick-Faro special three years ago. He took a liking to the old fortress in the square opposite the Anglican church (where much good work is done) and raised money to buy it and turn it into an eating house. The dungeon would be the cellar, the ramparts cleaned up become terracing for Bloody Mary drinkers in the summer. In the thick-walled withdrawing room there would be space for about 40 customers sitting comfortably at tables for four and six, and he found a motley crew of willing helpers — locals, Brazilians and one who appears to be on permanent leave from the Portuguese navy.

Who the gods would destroy, they first make Foreign Secretary. There are many aspects of the Government's forcible repatriation programme for the Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong which demand close inspection and comment, not least the sleazy truth about the first 51 "voluntary" repatriates, which has for some time now been sweeping out, starting with Barbara Amiel's article in this paper. There is also, for instance, the fraudulent claim that the fate of those who have been returned, or will be returned, is to be "monitored" by British officials.

In addition there is the refusal to allow representatives of the media to visit the camps, and the even more sinister prohibition on independent observers for the actual repatriations. Nor should we forget the smear campaign mounted against the refugees, who are depicted as no more than gangs of criminals.

Such matters do indeed demand comment, but I have said my say on them several times already, and I am not going to offer any more today. Instead, I want to make a final attempt to get one, and only one, fact into

the head of Mr Hunt, Mr Mandelson and the Prime Minister — a fact which is as obvious as it is unchallengeable, and as horrible as it is manifestly true.

The fact has nothing to do with the rights and wrongs of the Government's attitude towards the Vietnamese boat people, nor with the question of whether the policy of returning them is wise or foolish, nor with the difference between economic migrants and desperate people who fear for their liberty or lives, nor with morality, ambition, money, race, megalomania, politics or Gerald Kaufman. (Though I must pause to mention, for those who have not heard them, Kaufman's magnificent performances, when being interviewed on the subject of the boat people, as the Knight of the Woeful Countenance. He lowers the pitch of his voice: a semitone or two, to indicate his profound concern and sorrow,

and even — a brilliant touch, and as far as I know entirely original — puts in a few stammering over words, or hesitates in finding the right ones, thus demonstrating how deeply moved he is at the wickedness of the Tories.)

Very well: what is this fact of mine, to which all other conclusions must bow? It is simple and appalling. It is that if there are any attempts to force into the transports for deportation back to Vietnam boat people who are determined to resist and are physically capable of doing so, there will be a massacre.

When it happens, I will not engage in arguments about who started it or fomented it or was responsible for it, I will not enter disputation on the numbers killed on each side nor on the conclusions to be drawn from those numbers, I will not apportion blame nor call for prosecutions, I will not draw morals nor

put forward proposals for the avoidance of such things in the future, I will not believe a single word of any official report into what happened, and I will not even say "I told you so". I am telling you so right now, and had better believe me.

It is very nearly happened last week. An ample force of police and camp guards forced their way into one of the camps — Chi Ma Wan — claiming that they were coming to search the place for weapons. The Vietnamese concluded that this was a pretext, and that they were to be rounded up for deportation. Thereupon, they barricaded themselves inside the camp perimeter, building fires at the entrances, and set themselves to resist, by any means and with any weapons they could find or wrest from the enemy, what they so greatly feared. In the ensuing affray, in which massive quanti-

ties of tear-gas were used, some 40 people were injured; it is not known how many of these injuries were serious, nor whether any, on either side, have died from wounds.

I have set out today to achieve one thing, and one only: to make those involved, which includes all of us, understand what is going to happen. Nobody, from Mr Francis Maude to the most distinguished figures in the land, can be allowed to take refuge in ignorance. Of course, if the realization of what awaits should lead to a solution other than forcible repatriation, we shall all rejoice. Even if the Government can announce only that, say, no more deportations will be imposed for six months, while an urgent search for an alternative is mounted, it could do more than postpone the *batteur*, if the Soviet empire can be demolished in ten weeks, the Foreign Office, which is not very much more ossified, can surely make one more effort in half a year.

But these considerations are for others to examine. My sole purpose today was to say that the forced deportation of resisting Vietnamese will end in much death, and I have now said it.

THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 4 1990

Bernard Levin warns of bloodshed in the boat people camps

## A massacre in the offing

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David Davis

## Science: too pure by far

The differences are qualitative, too. Evidence indicates that the brightest A level students select physics, rather than engineering, as their first choice for further study, because physics will give them more kudos. Choosing fame rather than fortune, scholars pursue peer-group, academic rather than profitable patients.

It is here that British policy differs importantly from Japanese practice. The Japanese have not traditionally emphasized basic research, but this by no means implies that they have neglected R&D. In 1987, 2.8 per cent of Japan's GNP went into research and development (compared with 2.3 per cent in Britain). Only 14 per cent of this money went towards basic as opposed to applied research, and only about 20 per cent of the overall funding was provided by the government (compared with nearly 40 per cent in the UK).

Part of the irony of all this is that defence research, the government activity generally said to divert resources away from Britain's research efforts, is probably more successful in generating industrial advances than much pure research. For example, Britain has enjoyed a large and growing balance of payments advantage in aerospace for a number of years.

The important lesson is that government should recognize that theoretical research is not a wealth-creator. Many policies could flow from this. For example, the most promising young scholars might be encouraged to pursue the applied sciences through scholarships. Government should assist the private sector in its R&D efforts by channelling spending into commercial and patentable research, so encouraging British industry to focus on new technology.

Ideally, this is a need that should be met by the marketplace, but as a catalyst to speed up uptake of technological resources by business, we might emulate the Dutch government, which has started a dozen technology centres to help small and medium-sized businesses.

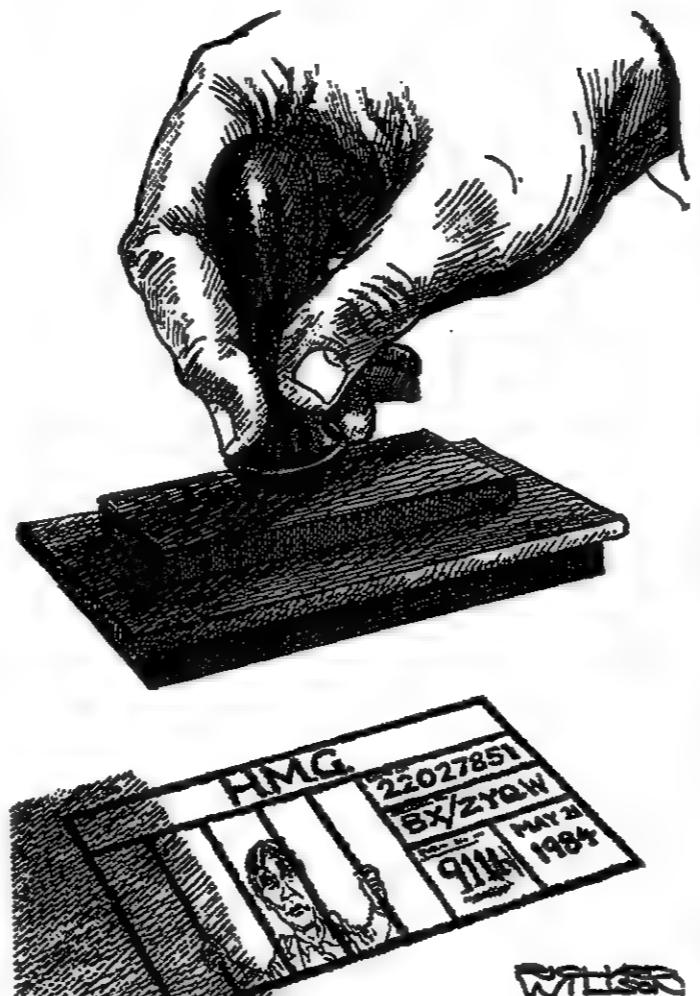
Above all, we should make the creation of competitive advantage our principal criterion for government spending, rather than simply allowing it to come about as a result of universities' efforts to find extra funds.

Britain has already done more than its duty in promoting international welfare by the free contribution of scientific talent to the world at large. It is time for us to devote as great a part of our scientific resources to developing our technological base as our competitors do.

It is perfectly possible to maintain the best of our pure science — that which generates most of our Nobel-class research — and yet devote a far greater share of taxpayers' money to the development of competitive advantage. It is time that government research programmes gave a real return to the taxpayer: more jobs, better products and stronger industries.

The author is Conservative MP for Bootle.

## Bill of Rights that's ours for the taking



Lord Scarman, in the third of our series on reforms for the 1990s, believes the individual needs protection from the authorities — and finds the means tailor-made

everyone within their jurisdictions certain rights and freedoms. Article 13 provides that everyone whose rights or freedoms have been violated shall have an effective remedy "before a national authority" such as a court or a tribunal. Most signatories to the convention have met these obligations by incorporating the convention into their law, empowering their courts to provide a remedy for violation or infringement.

The UK has not done so, and justifies its omission on the ground that the convention's rights and freedoms are secure under our existing law. Experience has shown this to be far from the truth. The UK has a disturbing record of losing cases which aggrieved citizens have taken to the European Court of Human Rights.

A model is to hand: the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, signed in 1950 and ratified in 1953 by some 16 European states, including the UK. The legal status of this convention is that of an international treaty binding upon the UK, but it is no part of British law unless Parliament chooses to incorporate it by Act of Parliament. It is this step which ought to be taken.

Article 1 of the convention imposes upon the contracting parties a duty to secure for

or punishment; freedom from slavery, servitude, or forced labour; the right to liberty and security of the person; the right to a fair and public trial; the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of expression, which includes freedom to receive and impart information and ideas "without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers"; freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, which includes the right to join a trade union. The enjoyment of the convention's rights and freedoms is to receive and import information and ideas "without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers"; freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, which includes the right to join a trade union. The enjoyment of the convention's rights and freedoms is to be without discrimination on grounds such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, opinion, origin, property, birth, or other status.

The convention not only clarifies the rights and freedoms which it protects, but also, where necessary, indicates their extent, and the restrictions and limits on some of them. For example, Article 10, which declares the right to freedom of expression, provides that the exercise of the right "carries with it duties and responsibilities" and may be subject to restrictions "pre-

pared by law". The convention also provides that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression "does not entail a criminal offence".

Let us have the Act: and let us call it what it ought to be, the Bill of Rights 1990.

Everyone within their jurisdictions certain rights and freedoms. Article 13 provides that everyone whose rights or freedoms have been violated shall have an effective remedy "before a national authority" such as a court or a tribunal. Most signatories to the convention have met these obligations by incorporating the convention into their law, empowering their courts to provide a remedy for violation or infringement.

The UK has not done so, and justifies its omission on the ground that the convention's rights and freedoms are secure under our existing law.

Experience has shown this to be far from the truth. The UK has a disturbing record of losing cases which aggrieved citizens have taken to the European Court of Human Rights.

A model is to hand: the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, signed in 1950 and ratified in 1953 by some 16 European states, including the UK. The legal status of this convention is that of an international treaty binding upon the UK, but it is no part of British law unless Parliament chooses to incorporate it by Act of Parliament. It is this step which ought to be taken.

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or punishment; freedom from slavery, servitude, or forced labour; the right to liberty and security of the person; the right to a fair and public trial; the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of expression, which includes freedom to receive and import information and ideas "without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers"; freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, which includes the right to join a trade union. The enjoyment of the convention's rights and freedoms is to receive and import information and ideas "without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers"; freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, which includes the right to join a trade union. The enjoyment of the convention's rights and freedoms is to be without discrimination on grounds such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, opinion, origin, property, birth, or other status.

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pared by law". The convention also provides that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression "does not entail a criminal offence".

Let us have the Act: and let us call it what it ought to be, the Bill of Rights 1990.

## Do a Roux then hire a crown



CLEMENT FREUD

was approaching the witching hour. I sipped my Madras, told Mr Webb what a genius he was and got another drink.

The only thing wrong with time-share is the type of person

who tends to be connected with the scheme. But, extending Mr Webb's idea to its logical conclusion, I was much taken with the thought that as a result of one substantial subscription one might spend one's life gainfully running a stationer's shop in February, captaining the QE2 during its Easter cruise, becoming His Excellency, the British Ambassador to Iceland and then taking over the Savoy Grill before going off to sweep up leaves in Regent's Park (the usual leaf sweepers having gone off to show visitors around Selfridge's). Alas, after disposing of King Zog (they considered him to be extravagant, resented his 7lb

10oz gold crown, minded about his smoking 150 perfumed cigarettes a day and were not much taken with his queen, who formerly sold postcards in Bayswater), I was much obliged to take up the expensive infrastructure of the monarchy... and if the odd tourist gazing at a palace finds me sitting around Selfridge's, I doubt that any great harm would be caused thereby. Far more

likely that the tourist would book for an extra week in order to see the real majesty.

I am tremendously keen on the concept of time-share restaurants. Some London nightclubs already do a similar thing, renting them selves out every Thursday; they provide the food and drink, the renter comes up with the music and takes the money at the door.

Mr Webb is serious about this. If you have a yen to be a restauranteur, he will move over in May and June and you can cook or delegate or just snarl at customers the way the professionals do. You could also make up disgusting picnic boxes to be taken on the beach and them, when your time is up, you might just have made some money and a reputation, quite apart from infiltrating the *Good Food Guide*. It will do wonders for your cv.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## THE STATUS OF TEACHERS

Cardinal Basil Hume sounded like the headmaster he once was when he said yesterday that the teacher was the key to educational reform and progress. The cheers of 440,000 teachers must still have been ringing in his ears when he went on to say that their pay was too low but that market values were an inadequate yardstick.

In spite of the cardinal's warning, it would be wrong to ignore labour market considerations in the determination of the right level of teachers' pay. When the employer is in some sense the public, as in the case of the state education system, there is some danger that the signals being sent by the employment market may not be properly understood.

The signals in the case of teachers' pay — especially the evidence that one in six state school posts are vacant and likely to remain unfilled — tell us that the time has come for a broad review of the status and remuneration of teachers. It is the workings of a free market in employment which is squeezing them out of classrooms into better paid and more rewarding jobs. The appropriate market response is to improve their conditions and encourage them to resist those attractions.

Pay must necessarily to some degree determine social status. That of the teaching profession has been allowed to dip too low, representing an insufficient appreciation by society at large of the importance of the work they do.

Social status and pay also help to form attitudes and ethos. It is not in the interests of the nation or its children that their education should be in the hands of staff who are disgruntled. A sense of being undervalued may alienate them from the values of the community they serve, in extreme cases even leading them to adopt militant left-wing political attitudes.

Better paid teachers would be more contented, would tend towards a more settled view of society and would therefore be more representative of the attitudes and values of the parents whose children they teach. Teachers ought to feel that they have a stake in the growing prosperity of the nation, and hence a stake in its continuing.

Before the unions rush to congratulate Cardinal Hume for his support they should reflect on the extent to which they are to blame for the sorry state of their members. Status is not something that can be issued like a coat of armour to protect the wearer from criticism or change. It has to be earned the hard way, by personal example, and it can be very easily squandered.

A few teachers lost it for their colleagues in the industrial action which spread through state schools like so many bush fires in the

## SOUND AND FURY

Not since the days of the "bare knuckle fight" with the CBI has the Government fallen out with business in such grand fashion as it has over the introduction of the uniform business rate. It is hard to counter the arguments for the change. It will finally do away with the inequity under which businesses operating from similar premises in comparable locations can find themselves paying vastly different rates on either side of a particular local authority boundary.

The logic of a countrywide rating revaluation, coupled with the phased imposition of a uniform rate irrespective of local boundaries, is unassailable. There is even, from the Conservative standpoint, a strong political logic in taking away the power of poor, high spending, boroughs to impose such a high level of business rate that it cripples those businesses which cannot move and drives away those that can. The political goal of stripping "sovereign" councils of even more of their power has moved a little closer.

At the same time, there have always been political disadvantages, the main one being that whenever so radical a change was introduced, there would be winners and losers. The losers were always bound to kick up a stink, while the winners would keep quiet and get on with their business.

Small businesses, their owners for the most part pillars of conservatism, already feel under attack from high interest rates and the consequent downturn in the housing market on which so many of them rely. Those in the

early 1980s. Gradually, as government and unions have abandoned megaphone diplomacy, the damage has been repaired. The education reforms have been generally well received by parents. The automatic rejection by the unions has given way to reasoned debate.

The old battles are lost and won, although Cardinal Hume refought some of them at the north of England education conference in Newcastle upon Tyne last night — an unnecessary diversion from the main thesis.

There is a convincing case to be made for improved pay and conditions, but it will be harmed if there is continued carping on fringe issues, like city technology colleges or the right to opt out of local authority control. Teachers will improve their status by remembering that they are members of a profession. One mark of a professional is the ability to control and regulate his own professional affairs. The teachers still have to demonstrate that they are able to make a good job of that.

As teachers have grappled with the reforms and the undoubted pressures they impose, so the Government has become less strident, more ready to praise than to blame. It still has one major step to take.

Statistics are the ruin of many a good argument. The Government reckon about 1 per cent of the profession leave early every year; other studies say it could be more than twice that. Whatever the figure, it is too high, especially as it includes many highly-trained teachers who have been wooed into better paid jobs outside the classroom. The Government seems unwilling to accept that obvious link.

Nobody ever entered teaching for the money, but it should be enough to enable young teachers to buy a reasonable home and to allow those with young families to stay with the job and not be subsidized by their partner or forced out of the profession by lack of cash.

The teachers are beginning to show that they are once again earning the respect of parents and even the Government. The Government should recognize in turn that status is linked with pay, that it believes in the teachers and that it is prepared to reward them accordingly.

The limits of the 1990 pay award have already been set. When Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, visits Newcastle tomorrow, he should

show that he is ready to play his part in restoring teachers' morale. That means paying them more. More pay does not, however, necessarily mean more pay for everybody regardless of quality or the needs of a school.

The unions will have to accept the notion of differential pay. It is the only way of attracting excellence — and keeping it.

## A lack of trust at Stonehenge

From the Chairman of English Heritage

Sir, Mr Rollo Maughfling's letter (January 1) asks English Heritage to reconsider the decision not to open Stonehenge at the time of the summer solstice in June this year. He suggests that considerable thought has already gone into preparing proposals which might enable the monument to be open at that time.

As Mr Maughfling acknowledges, it is the wish of English Heritage to move towards circumstances in which it will be possible once again to allow access for members of the public at the time of the summer solstice. We made considerable progress in that direction in 1987, which was brought to an end by the violent scenes which took place in 1988.

With considerable reluctance, and on strong police advice, we therefore took the decision to keep Stonehenge closed in 1989 and, again having consulted the county council and the police, to repeat that in 1990.

As the travellers and their representatives know, many interests besides English Heritage's are involved in and around Stonehenge, in particular the National Trust, which owns much of the surrounding land, the local authorities, the police, and other local landowners. Despite the good will of English Heritage, I can see no prospect of a peaceful event until the trust of the local authorities and the community has been established by the travellers and their representatives. At the moment that trust is certainly not there.

As far as English Heritage is concerned, I will certainly look at any proposals which come forward from Mr Maughfling with an open mind, in the hope that they might come to fruition in a future year, if not in 1990. Meanwhile, I do urge most strongly upon him and his colleagues the need to establish by whatever means they can the trust and support of the people of Wiltshire.

Yours sincerely,  
MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU,  
Chairman, English Heritage,  
Fortress House,  
23 Savile Row, W1.

January 2

## Ordeal by music

From Sir Anthony Kershaw

Sir, in your Leader of December 30 you say that the harassing of the Vatican mission in Panama by playing very loud music outside it is not illegal. I disagree.

Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations places a "special duty" upon the receiving state "to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity".

I cannot imagine anything more likely to have made work at the Vatican's mission impossible than blaring pop music at 24 hours a day.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY KERSHAW,  
West Barn, Didmorton,  
Bridgwater, Avon.

January 2

## Retail competition

From Mr Douglas Vernon

Sir, Mr Michael Rubinstein's defence of the Net Book Agreement (December 29) is simply numberless. Should legislation be proposed to empower solicitors to dictate levels of fees to barristers one can imagine the howls of anguish from Mr. Rubinstein's colleagues; and yet surely representation in a court of law is every bit as crucial to civilised life as the publication of books.

If publishers are to continue to be allowed to dictate to book-sellers a retail price for their wares which gives a quite inadequate return on their investment money, time, and expertise why should not the same right be given to authors, to say nothing of printers? If logic can be found to exist in one set of restrictive practice, why not another?

The truth is that the NBA perpetuates mediocrity in book retailing and will continue to do so as long as the law allows.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS VERNON,  
The Victorian Gallery,  
16 Bugle Lane,  
Victoria Arcade,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

December 29

## Postal delays

From Mr P. J. Howarth

Sir, Mr David Buchanan (December 29) may like to know that the British postcode system, unlike many foreign code systems which merely route the mail to the correct town or district, is designed to help sort letters efficiently at every stage of their journey — right down to the postman's delivery round.

All this is achieved through a special combination of letters and numbers which enable us to keep the code as short as possible.

By using numbers only it would need a code of at least nine characters to do the same job, which is the case in the United States.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. HOWARTH (Director,  
Field Operations),  
Royal Mail.

148/166 Old Street, EC1.

December 29

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01) 782 5046.

Mr Chenevix Trench (December 30) supports the Prince of

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A lack of trust at Stonehenge

From Mr Michael J. Wade

Sir, It is quite appropriate for Mr Alan Lee Williams to remind us all (January 2) of the plight of many residents in the East End of London. There exists a startling comparison of life styles as between most of those working in the City and their near neighbours in Spitalfields. However, to accuse the City of merely listening politely to appeals for help and then returning to their comfortable desks without further action is, perhaps, a little harsh.

The Lloyd's insurance market consists of some hundreds of organisations operating autonomously in the business of underwriting or broking; the difficulty is knowing how to respond to the needs of our neighbours.

It is important to recognise the conundrum faced by the City firms once this problem is, in fact, drawn to their attention. Many Lloyd's-connected firms are small in size and probably wonder what contribution they could be expected to make. Many of the larger firms, such as Bowring, Sedgwick, and Willis Faber, are already making substantial contributions in their own chosen projects.

At Lloyd's we decided to create an umbrella forum — the Lloyd's Community Programme — which aims to focus thoughts upon Spitalfields (less than a mile away)

### Safe refrigeration

From Mr George R. Ayres

Sir, It is both wrong and unfair of Dr Fraser Williams (December 29) to lay the burden of responsibility for inadequate food safety on the manufacturers of domestic and commercial refrigerators.

The situation he describes in his report on hospital ward refrigerators suggests the use of cabinets which are clearly inadequate for this application. All the features which he recommends, including fan-assisted cooling, automatic defrosting, and externally visible thermometers, are readily available on commercial cabinets which are designed and manufactured in Great Britain.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL WADE (Chairman,  
Lloyd's Community Programme),  
Lloyd's of London,  
One Lime Street, EC3.

January 2

### Hong Kong fears

From the Chairman of the Hong Kong Freedom Association

Sir, Norman Tebbit (report, December 22; letters, January 1) is utterly wrong to oppose right of abode in the UK for our Chinese citizens in Hong Kong on grounds of immigration control. The question of Hong Kong is not one of immigration into the UK, but of our absolute duty to support its citizens, whom we have ruled for 150 years, to live in freedom during their years.

Understandably, many of our Chinese British citizens in Hong Kong are deeply afraid for themselves and their families after 1997. If things go seriously wrong and the mainland communist government begins to exert tyrannical pressure upon individuals in Hong Kong (for whatever reason), they want to be able to leave, not as refugees, but as British citizens freely able to emigrate to Britain. That is why they have called for the restoration of "right of abode" in Britain taken away by our 1981 Nationality Act.

So far, the British Government has responded by vague reassuring noises about coordinating an

### City's denial of an uncaring face

and then co-ordinate voluntary action to achieve the best result. The programme enables the smaller firms to become involved in an overall strategy of activity without losing its own identity or creating duplication of effort.

We have chosen to centre our skills in the area of education and training because, if successful, the young Bengalis of whom Mr Lee Williams speaks could become the next generation of "haves" if armed with a relevant knowledge of our business. It is also of benefit to our insurance-market employers who will be able to recruit local youngsters during the 1990s at a time when the demographic trends imply shortages.

The Prince of Wales launched this initiative during February, 1989, and since then over 60 Lloyd's underwriting and broking firms have become members of Business in the Community. It is true to state that we could do more, and I hope that Toyne Hall will spell out their ideas for the 1990s, via the offices of Business in the Community, whose function it is to match community needs with business needs.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL WADE (Chairman,  
Lloyd's Community Programme),  
Lloyd's of London,  
One Lime Street, EC3.

January 2

I suggest that the problems rest not with the manufacturer but the consumer, whether housewife or public authority, who is frequently concerned primarily with price.

The words of John Ruskin, printed on the cover of my aged *Frigidaire Price and Product Book*, still summarise the situation:

There is hardly anything in this world that some man cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper, and the people who consider price only are the man's lawful prey.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE R. AYRES (Director)  
Norpequin Ltd,  
Mersley House, 220 Stockport Road,  
Cheadle Heath, Greater Manchester.

January 2

international relief effort for Hong Kong in the event of a real crisis after 1997. However, our association thinks that the Government must

1. Restore British passports to all its 3.25 million British Hong Kong citizens.

2. Encourage other democratic countries to give passports to non-British citizens according to an agreed formula (possibly up to 1 per cent of their present populations).

3. Demilitarise the Government of Hong Kong before 1997.

The effect of these measures would be to provide strong international support for all the citizens of Hong Kong. Whilst all could theoretically leave the colony if they wished (surely a fundamental right in any civilised society) the Chinese Government would have the strongest possible incentive to encourage them all to stay in Hong Kong by scrupulously respecting their autonomy, as promised in the Joint Declaration of 1984.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL SHORT, Chairman,  
Hong Kong Freedom Association,  
8 Grange Road, Cambridge.

January 3

### Unwilling traveller

From Mr Heric Kenyon

Sir, The day before yesterday was my 59th birthday. Yesterday I boarded a train at Woking to travel to Brockenhurst.

At Brockenhurst I was the only passenger at my door, but before I was able to get a helpful passenger to show me how to open it, the train started and I had to accompany it to the next station.

Going back cost me a £7 taxi fare.

Yours truly,  
HERIC KENYON,  
Wayne Cottage,  
Garden Road,  
Burley,  
Ringwood,  
Hampshire.

December 30

### Faithful friends

From Miss Eve Nonhey

Sir, Bernard Levin's eulogy (January 1) of his beloved watch and typewriter reminds me that I, too, have cause for commendation.

In 1960 I bought an aluminium coffee percolator for 9s. 1d. (about 50p). It has withstood the ravages of several house moves, together with sundry scorchings and near annihilation on a variety of gas and electric cooker-tops.

Yours faithfully,

EVE NORTHEY,  
Berthany, 13 Herne Rise,  
Ilminster, Somerset.

January 2

Now, at the beginning of its 30th year, it has finally given up the ghost, unlike the watch and typewriter. However, it will not be enshrined in a glass case; I hope it will continue to function by using the outer shell as a container for topping up my wind



## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will visit Glasgow University and open the annual conference of the Institute of British Geographers at 10.45; will visit the Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park at 3.45; and, as Patron of the 1990 World Debating Championships, will attend the championships final at Glasgow University at 7.30. Prince Edward, as President of the Sadler's Wells Foundation and Trust, will attend a gala performance at Sadler's Wells theatre at 7.20 in aid of the Frederick Ashton Studio.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** James Usher, Archibishop of Armagh, chorologist, Dublin, 1581; Giovanni Perni, leatherworker, Italy, 1710; Jacob Gruber, Swiss jewelled and gold-sell collector, Hohen, Germany, 1785; Louis Braille, inventor of the system bearing his name, Coupvray, France, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1813; Augustus John painter, Tebury, Dyfed, 1878. **DEATHS:** Stephen Hales, clergyman, pioneer of plant physiology, Teddington, Middlesex, 1761; Benito Goldoni, novelist and dramatist, Madrid, 1920; Henri Bergson, philosopher, Nobel laureate 1928, Paris, 1948; Albert Camus, novelist, Nobel laureate 1957, Paris, France, 1960; T.S. Eliot, poet, Nobel laureate 1948, London, 1965; Donald Campbell, killed, Coniston Water, Cumbria, when his speedboat crashed, 1967; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, 1980. In the Korean War, Chinese communists captured Seoul, 1951.

## Birthdays today

Miss Grace Bumbry, opera and concert singer, 53; Miss Rosalie Crutchley, actress, 68; Mr Ian Cuthbertson, actor, 60; Mr Alan Dyer, chief constable, Bedfordshire, 56; Professor K.J. Hancock, economist, 55; Sir Haweck Hudson, former chairman, Lloyds, 71; Lieutenant-Commander Sir Ian Clark Hutchinson, 87; Sir Leslie Joseph, former vice-chairman, Thrusounds F.C., 82; Professor B. Josephson, physicist, 50; Professor E. J. Lanyon, principal, Royal Veterinary College, 46; the Hon David Mairgill, civil servant, 50; Miss Margaret Marshall, concert and opera singer, 41; Mr Floyd Panasonic, boxer, 55; the Earl of Ranfurly, 61; Mr J. R. Rix, publisher, 56; Sir Thomas Robson, chartered accountant, 94; the Rev Edward Rogers, former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, 81; the Earl of Selkirk, Q.C., 84; Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Wilkins, 57.

## School news

**Milfield Senior School**  
Spring Term starts on Monday, January 8, and ends on Wednesday, March 28; the half term holiday is from February 21 to 25. Brother Angelo will visit the School from February 15 to 19. The Confirmation Service will be held in Wells Cathedral on Saturday, March 10, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells will confirm candidates. Milfield's Sixth Form History Conference will be held on February 8; the Dance Extravaganza will take place on February 28, and March 1; The School Play, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, will be performed on March 20, 21, 22 and 23. The Milfield Scholarships Examinations take place from February 26 to 28; 40 major academic awards are offered to pupils aged 13+ on Scholarship or Common Entrance results. For Sixth Formers entering Milfield in September 1990 approximately 35 Scholarships and All-Rounders bursaries will be available.

## Forces news

**The Army**  
Appointments  
Brigadier (Dame) Charlotte Gandy  
Brigadier T. H. H. Hinchliffe RACF — 29 December 1989.  
**Honorary appointments**  
Brigadier R. S. Horn RACF. Senior Chaplain South West District to be Honorary Chaplain to the Queen in December 1989.  
**Promotions**  
Brigadier F. W. Parsons RACF. Senior Chaplain Northern District promoted to CPI (Colonel) on 1 January 1990. Major General R. A. RACF. Senior Chaplain CPI (Colonel) on 1 January 1990.  
**Appointments**  
Brigadier L. H. Bryan RACF. Major General — 8 February 1990.  
**Anthony Phillips**  
A Mass of Thanksgiving for Anthony Phillips will be held at the Catholic Church, Evingham Park, Yorkshirre, on January 11, at noon.

## David Blundy

A memorial service for David Blundy will be held on January 23 at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon.

# Forthcoming marriages

### Mr P.A. Averley and Miss L.L. Scott

The engagement is announced between Paul Averley, son of Mr Harry Averley and the late Mrs Joy Averley, Lieutenant of Warrington, Co. Down, and Lucy Gabriel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Scott, of Egglecliff, Cleveland.

### Mr J.D. Goucher and Miss C.E. Hesp

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Group Captain and Mrs D. Goucher, of Shropshire, Dorset, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.E. Hesp, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

### Mr P.G. Green and Dr C.F. Gibbs

The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs Merle Green, of Bramhall, Cheshire, and Fiona, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A.G. Gibbs, of Clifton, Bristol.

### Mr M.R. Hodges and Miss J.K. Naylor

The engagement is announced between Mark, second son of Mr and Mrs M.G. Hodges, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C. Naylor, of Lymn, Cheshire.

### Dr P.J.P. Jennings and Miss A.K. Mole

The engagement is announced between Piers Julian Francis, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Jennings, of Bellingham, Cumbria, and Katherine Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mole, of Felton Cottage, Winkfield, Berkshire.

### Mr C.J. Bell and Miss P.M. Jones

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs John Bell, of Myton Hall, Shropshire, and Philippa, daughter of Mr Jonah Jones, of Zimbabwe, and the late Patricia Jones.

### Mr C.O.B. Corrie and Miss D.L. Green

The engagement is announced between Charles Owen Green, of Brockenhurst, son of Mr and Mrs J.R.L.T. Corrie, of Winchester, Hants, and Debra Lynn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Green, of Romiley, Cheshire.

### Mr R.J. Gibbs and Miss K.R.P. Gilbertson

The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael J. Gibbs, of Brinkworth, Wiltshire, and Katherine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David M. Gilbertson, of Ampney St Mary, Gloucestershire.

### Mr D.O. Knight and Miss J.G. Burnett

The engagement is announced between Davies Owen, second son of Mr and Mrs Brian Knight, of Tadworth, Surrey, and Joanna Gwynne, younger daughter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Arthur Burnett, of Limpfield, Surrey.

### Mr J.B. Leveson and Miss L.C.S. Watson

The engagement is announced between John Blackwood, son of the late Mr Arthur Leveson and Mrs Anne Leveson.

### Mr and Mrs M. J. Gibbons and Mrs J. Gibbons

The engagement is announced between Neil Malcolm Scott, son of Mr and Mrs A.S. Scott, of Olds House, Standford, Hampshire, and Mrs Geoffrey Cridland, of 18 Pembroke Place, London W8.

### Mr R.J. Gibbs and Miss S.C. Davies

The engagement is announced between Jeremy Francis Morris, of Faversham, Kent, and Marjorie Davies, of Wimborne, Dorset.

### Mr J.B. Leveson and Miss R. Swales

The engagement is announced between Peter T. Leveson, and Joanna Swales.

### Mr and Mrs J. Gibbons and Mrs J. Gibbons

The engagement is announced between Mr and Mrs J. Gibbons, of Brinkworth, Wiltshire, and Katherine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David M. Gilbertson, of Ampney St Mary, Gloucestershire.

### Mr D.J. Goucher and Mrs D.S. Weston

The engagement is announced between David Weston, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alan

### Mr D.P. Lawrence and Miss F.M. Cheshire

The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs W.R. Lawrence, of Ebbord, Dorset, and Fiona, daughter of Dr and Mrs M.D. Cheshire, of Lympstone, Hampshire.

### Mr L.E.D. Pinnock and Miss P.M. Cheshire

The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs W.R. Pinnock, of Ebbord, Dorset, and Fiona, daughter of Dr and Mrs M.D. Cheshire, of Lympstone, Devon.

### Mr A.L. Mitchell and Miss J.M.A. Fornash

The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Mitchell, of Hornton, Norfolk, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Fornash, of Whitford, Devon.

### Mr P.M. Symes and Miss S.C. Davies

The engagement is announced between Patrick, eldest son of the late Mr Lennox Monizaki, of Sonning, South Hams, and Mrs C.J. Monizaki, of Twickenham, Middlesex, and Annabel Jane, the only daughter of Mr Graham Cottee, of London, and Mrs Andrew Hoogewegen, of Sandridge, Lang, of Caversham, Oxfordshire.

### Mr P.J.M. Tawell and Miss K.R.A. Heisler

The engagement is announced between Peter Arthur, eldest son of the late Mr Robert Tawell and Mrs E.A. Morrison, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Marjorie, daughter of Mr H.M. Lang, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Michael Howard, of Aldona, Andorra.

### Mr P.J.M. Niblett and Miss R. Swales

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## HEALTH

As the seasonal dash starts for ski slopes and distant beaches, Liz Gill examines some of the dangers of a winter holiday

**S**ome like it hot and some like it cold—but very few of us appreciate a damp and overcast British winter. Consequently, those who can afford the time and money are preparing to escape to the ski slopes or the sunspots. According to Thomas Cook, the top 10 winter destinations for 1990 are Austria, the Canary Islands, France, the Costa del Sol, Majorca, Barbados, Cyprus, Jamaica, the Nile and the United States.

The psychological advantages of a winter break are undisputed; the physical benefits are more questionable, particularly on the ski slopes. Skiers are three times as likely to be injured as sun-seekers, a fact reflected by higher insurance premiums. Last week BUPA announced that it was doubling its medical insurance for skiers this season because "claims have gone through the roof."

Approximately one million Britons go skiing each winter, but numbers are expected to be down substantially this year because of poor snow conditions over most of Europe.

Some resorts create artificial snow. "It is not dangerous in itself," says Camilla Buxton, of the Ski Club of Great Britain. "These machines are now so sophisticated that they can make snow of the appropriate consistency. The main problem tends to be that they are only used on main runs, so there can be overcrowding."

Beginners faced with limited snow should stick to a ski school, she says. "More expert skiers should ensure they wear skis with sharp edges to give them maximum control. And, of course, they shouldn't go too fast."

Norwich Union, one of the leading holiday insurers, says that this winter and last have produced more broken arms and legs and fewer sprains. "The trouble with thin snow is that you get bits of rock sticking up and bare patches. There is less to cushion a fall and more to cause it," spokesman John Garner says.

Europ Assistance, which offers back-up services to holidaymakers in trouble, says that its ski assistance have risen by 36 per cent during the past year, compared with an overall increase of 25 per cent for all types of assistance. John Thompson, assistant general manager in administration, says: "Problems on a skiing holiday are usually to do with the actual activity, whereas sun holiday difficulties are more to do with the weather. You do get driving and swimming accidents, but mostly it is sunstroke, heatstroke, the worsening of a pre-existing condition such as asthma, heart attacks or illnesses like malaria."

Last year the company gave between 17,000 and 18,000 assistance to British tourists, ranging from on-the-spot help with a doctor or hospital to flying a sick holiday-maker home by air-ambulance. Thompson adds: "I don't think skiing is becoming more risky—simply



## Beware of the winter break

more popular." Dr Anthony C. Turner, author of the *Travellers' Health Guide* and consultant medical adviser to the Trailfinders tour company, says: "The most important thing for skiers is to be muscularly fit."

"Apart from fractures, one of the most common injuries is torn knee ligaments, which can cause chronic problems. Most injuries are caused by falling badly. You should get into training before you go by going to one of those dry ski slopes. All too often people go skiing who have taken scarcely any exercise before."

Turner used to ski, and is convinced of its benefits. "With luck you get some decent exercise and a life in the open air. You usually get the sun as well, though

you must take care not to get sunburned."

"Mountain air used to be thought to have quite amazing effects—think of all those Swiss sanatoriums for people with tuberculosis. The main attraction nowadays is that it is unpolluted. You should, however, be careful about going too high—above 6,000ft, say—because then you get less oxygen and the heart has to work harder."

"I often think that what people do ages us—over-eating, drinking and staying up late—might undo some of the benefits of what they do during the day."

People who prefer warmer climates might be doing themselves just as much good, he says. "Provided you treat the sun with respect. You should always take it in graduated

measures." Gastro-enteric diseases can be a problem, partly because of food hygiene, but also because bacteria thrive in higher temperatures.

A survey by *Holiday Which?* in May 1987 of 23,000 readers found that of 42,000 holidays in 29 countries, 18 per cent were effected by illness, accident, theft or mugging.

The most common problem was illness, at 13 per cent, with stomach upsets accounting for well over half of disorders. Visitors to Egypt ran the greatest risk, with 56 per cent going down with some sort of bug, followed by India and Nepal, South East Asia and Gambia. Very few holidaymakers developed a serious illness. Accidents accounted for only 2 per cent of problems.

After stomach upsets, sunburn and road accidents are the cause of most claims from people on warm-weather holidays. The top danger spots for traffic accidents are Yugoslavia and Portugal. According to the Ministry of Transport, in Yugoslavia there are 11.4 road deaths annually per 10,000 vehicles, in Portugal 11.2. In the United Kingdom the figure is 2.4.

According to a spokeswoman for MASTA, the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad: "Generally speaking, cold climates are less risky than hot ones, in the sense that there are not so many diseases. But the risk also varies with the type of travel. Going to an hotel in a big city would probably be safer than back-packing in a remote rural area."

MASTA will give holidaymakers specific advice according to destination. "It is important to have injections for a particular destination and to be up to date with tetanus and polio jabs wherever you are going," the spokeswoman added.

Extremes of both heat and cold, which make the blood sticky and more likely to clot, increase the susceptibility to heart attacks and strokes, particularly among the elderly. But according to Prof William Keatinge, an expert in the effects of climate on health, heat is on the whole better for the body than cold. "More people die when the temperature falls than when it rises. There is, however, a danger with excessive heat. The threshold of trouble appears to be when it never drops below 17°C in a 24-hour period. Comfort is a pretty good guide to one's well-being." He stresses that you must also be sure to replace the fluids and salts lost by sweating.

At the other end of the temperature spectrum it is dangerous, Keatinge says, to be thoroughly chilled for more than 30 minutes. But he adds: "It is always easier to point out the dangers than the benefits. A good holiday makes you relaxed and lowers the blood pressure. And although we don't understand exactly how, we know that sunlight makes people more cheerful." Indeed, a small group of people suffers from SAD (Seasonally Activated Depression), which can be cured by exposure to light.

The effects of climate on the body, though long understood at a folk level, are only just beginning to be taken seriously by scientists. For example, Professor Conrad Harris, head of the Department of General Practice at St James's Hospital, Leeds, discovered recently that both depression and arthritis peak in May and November, periods which combine a drop in barometric pressure with an increase in air humidity. He says: "We haven't yet got the faintest idea of the mechanism that might cause this. We are coming to realize, though, that we have thousands of bodily chemicals and rhythms that alter seasonally. It seems there is hardly one that doesn't."

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

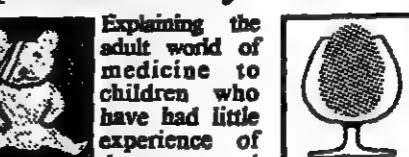
## More than a passing phase

A jeweller in Marylebone High Street, only a stone's throw from Harley Street, recently questioned the value of the fashion of adding the phase of the moon to a watchface. His, however, is one of the few shops where watches with this information might be a useful buy, for the moon can be as important to the doctor as to the noosher.

Such reputable sources as the *Journal of Psychology*, the *BMJ* and the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* have all carried reports which confirm the suspicion of every GP that psychopaths are, indeed, more aggressive, schizophrenics more disturbed and the depressed more melancholic at the time of the full moon. At this time of the month, too, women are more likely to go into labour, or those who are not pregnant have their periods.

Doctors at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, and the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, have studied the effect of the phases of the moon on acute urinary retention in the ageing male. Their research, published in the *BMJ*, indicates that acute retention—when the blocking of the outlet of the bladder by the prostate renders a patient unable to pass urine—can occur at any time of the day or night. It has no relationship to the day of the week, or to the season, but it is significantly more likely to occur at the time of the new moon. Doctors previously believed that acute retention is more likely at weekends, when a bladder is apt to become over-distended with beer while a patient enjoys an alcohol-induced sleep. The statistics from Newcastle and Portsmouth show that there is no increase in the incidence of acute retention on Fridays and Saturdays. Nor could the doctors find a clear-cut relationship with the season—there were fewer emergency admissions in the spring than the autumn, but the difference was not statistically significant. The traditional teaching is that during the cold autumn nights a patient sweats less, and is therefore more likely to experience problems with a over-filled bladder.

### Operation teddy Raw facts



Explaining the adult world of medicine to children who have had little experience of doctors and none of hospitals, and who are unable to understand that discomfort now may save suffering later, has always proved a challenge. It is reported that Professor Marcel Rufi, a psychiatrist at the Marneilles Faculty of Medicine, has recently advocated the use of teddy bears and dolls as teaching aids.

Rufi prepares children for surgery by demonstrating to them their teddy bear or doll just where incision is going to be made, bandages applied and drapes inserted.

The professor has persuaded the surgeons designated to do the operation to spend time cutting and stitching teddy's tummy, or if it is an old, ragged bear, repairing some existing hole and then bandaging the invalid toy. Anesthetists also have a role in the professor's play. As part of the pre-surgical routine, they have been asked to rehearse their technique on the teddy bear and then put up the appropriate drips.

Rufi discounts the ridicule his French colleagues have heaped on his teddy bear surgical lists by quoting the shortened recovery time, and the reduced need for post-operative analgesics which his well-prepared patients have compared with those children who wake up surprised and frightened when they find themselves bound like a mummy.

Rufi can be reassured that similar, if less elaborate, techniques were being used by some surgeons at Great Ormond Street 25 years ago when it was not uncommon to find a bedside teddy bear as heavily bandaged as a casualty.



Mouth ulcers—aphthous ulcers—are scaly and painful and can make eating a misery. *Mums* magazine reports that doctors in Glasgow have recommended that patients with aphthous mouth ulcers should try spraying them four times a day with a Bectotide inhaler, such as is used by asthmatic patients. The patients who followed this regime reported that the ulcers were less painful than hitherto.

### Let us spray

## Cat naps and clean living

### BREATHING SPACE



CARLA LANE

My overall attitude to health has little to do with food, and more to do with the way I think. You mustn't look in the mirror and think "My God, the years are going." I believe that almost everything is in the mind, so the beginning is to think healthy, to be excited about nature and the world in general.

I've been a vegetarian for 23 years. I haven't touched meat or fish, not an atom of it, and because I feel like climbing mountains all the time, I'm convinced that there's something good about that.

I don't like the way animals are fed, quite apart from the way they're forced to live and die. Even fish are tainted by what goes into the sea.

I never buy ordinary biscuits, only those with no animal fats or sugar in them, and I drink pure Ceylon tea. Since Chernobyl I haven't drunk water that comes from the tap; I have bottled water. I don't buy fruit and vegetables unless they're organically grown. We've also just acquired an allotment, so that we can grow our own stuff.

I'm not a great or clever cook, but I can sit down very happily to cottage cheese or pineapple, a few almonds, some organic tomatoes, cold organic potatoes, organic lettuce, bits of herbs sprinkled over that, and a piece of wholemeal bread.

I'm not a drinker, nor because I object to alcohol—I think it's wonderful—but I'm afraid that after one glass of wine I just go haywire. Up until three years ago I smoked, not heavily—about eight a

day—but I liked my cigarettes and I became very dependent on having one when I was working. Then I decided I should give up because I started to feel it in my lungs. The amazing thing was I never wanted a cigarette after that.

I don't sleep well at all, that's one thing that my so-called healthy body doesn't give me. I fall asleep easily but I wake very quickly, and I'm tossing and turning and thinking. For years I panicked: I used to think that I'd get terrible shadows under my eyes, I'd be unhealthy and look awful—the vanity! I realized eventually that it wasn't going to harm me at all. So now I get up and cuddle the odd cat—any cat that's passing through the bedroom; I've got seven of them.

I don't do exercises except for raising my feet 50 times every night, which I've done since my boys were born; they're in their early thirties now.

I absolutely love chocolate-covered peanuts and raisins, jelly babies, wine gums, and liquorice allsorts. But I feel that because everything else is so strict I can afford to go raving mad on these things. I suppose my philosophy is to go easy on 90 per cent of things and mad on the other 10 per cent.

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Fifties flashback: the film of the week, *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, on life in an urban hell; and an American in unfriendly London

# Stew of callousness

## CINEMA

David Robinson

The defence of the novel *Last Exit to Brooklyn* against criminal prosecution — which succeeded on appeal — was one of the great British liberal causes of the Sixties. In the 24 years since, the book has slipped into the obscurity of a modern classic, and its author, Hubert Selby, long ago kicked the drugs and drink habits which the success of his first novel handsomely financed, and has become a quiet-living academic and grandfather.

*Last Exit to Brooklyn* (18, Odeon, West End) is adapted for the screen by a German production company and filmed in New York with predominantly American personnel. Previous attempts to adapt it were thwarted by the difficulty of structuring Selby's six loosely linked anecdotes into a single coherent narrative. Desmond Nakano's ingenious screenplay, however, achieves this very convincingly. Even where there are no real links between the episodes in the parallel stories, they are suggested by the presence of the same characters in different stories, and by the common setting, a rundown industrial district in Brooklyn.

The characters whose destinies are intertwined in this place are Harry, the union organizer, who is dragged to ruin by his suddenly discovered homosexual appetites; Tralala, the young prostitute, who preys on servicemen about to depart for Korea (it is 1952); Georgette, a tormented young transvestite and his/her cronies; Vinnie and his gang of young hoodlums, who pamp for Tralala and use her as a decoy to rob her clients; Big Joe and his Italian family, who are the most indifferent figures in the story if one overlooks their habits of beating each other up and unrusting out of windows; and Joe's young son Spook, who yearns romantically for Tralala.

Few of the characters are fortunate. Drug-busted Georgette is killed by a car (driven, incidentally, by Hubert Selby himself, playing a bit part); Harry is beaten and crucified by Vinnie's gang after impounding Spook; the drunken Tralala is gang-raped. In the book she is raped to death, but the film ends a shade more hopefully, with Tralala consoling the tearful Spook who has come — too late — to her rescue.

It is interesting to see how often the nationality of film-makers, rather than the qualities of their material, gives a film its flavour.



Street wise: Jennifer Jason Leigh as the would-be Monroe lookalike, Tralala, in *Last Exit to Brooklyn*

Despite its setting, the whole visual style and the unexpected eruption of sentimentality into unspiring violence make *Last Exit to Brooklyn* a very German film. The expressionist chiaroscuro often gives it the look of an old Fritz Lang picture (there is more than a touch of *Dr Mabuse*, not least in the lighting for lettering in the backgrounds), and the use of colour, especially for the predominantly night scenes, recalls Fassbinder.

It is a confident, polished film. Director Ulrich Edel strives successfully for a distinctive style, and makes a strong impression

with big, spectacular scenes, such as the battle between strikers and police. Only one or two of the cast (the always excellent Burt Young as Big Joe, Jerry Orbach as a union boss) are well-known character players, but there are impressive performances from comparative unknowns: Stephen Lang as Harry, and Jennifer Jason Leigh as the would-be Marilyn Monroe lookalike Tralala.

Some readers found a redeeming quality of compassion in Selby's portrait of an urban hell where people relentlessly devour one another. Kenneth Allsop

wrote of his "compassion for the subterraneans and rage at the averted eye" in the face of "this stew of callousness, savagery and hatred, and the pitiful, blind gropings towards substitute tenderness".

The film is more about shock and sensation than compassion. "With this film," says the producer, Bernd Eichinger, "I wanted to throw a rock at the audience." It is not an aim that every viewer will find attractive, but undoubtedly an influential section of today's public enjoys the sensation of being pelted.

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ELVIS: THE KING'S GOLD COLLECTION (Warner, 18): Pretty tarnished gold, though the patience of Elvis's fans knows no limits. *Frankie and Johnny*

(1963, 15), an old-fashioned futuristic romp with Peter Strauss as an Indiana Jones of outer space; *John Carpenter's The Fog* (1980, PG), with Jeff Bridges as the bemused alien discovering human habits and feelings; and the re-edited 1980 edition of Spielberg's magisterial *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (PG).

MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN: A COMEDY COLLECTION (Warner): You taped *John Cleese in Michael Frayn's Clockwise* (1985, PG) off the television over Christmas; now buy it in a box with two other British comedies. *Clement and La Frenais' lame Caribbean satire Water* (1985, 15) would get few punters if privatized; *Alan Bennett's A Private Function* (1984, 15), a quaint comic study in post-war austerity and social bickering, spreads its material too thinly, but the cast (Maggie Smith, Michael Palin) and the pig are delightful.

RIVER OF DEATH (Pathé, 15): Mediocre trudge through Alastair MacLean's novel, featuring Michael Dudikoff as the Amazon jungle guide entangled with cannibals and Nazis. Sleepy performances from Robert Vaughn and Donald Pleasence. Steve Carver directs, 1988.

WORLD GONE WILD (Warner, 18): Futuristic hokum of the *Mad Max* school, with a silly plot, a threadbare look and tame direction (Lee H. Katzin). Bruce Dern gets the best of things as magician Ethan, determined to avenge Adam Ant's raid on a desert community. 1988.

(1985) features attractively garish Mississippi riverboat settings; *Follow That Dream* (1962) finds the King and his ragamuffin family setting up home on a Florida beach; in the feeble *Cambodia* (1987) he plays an oil millionaire, a strata star trio (Chevy Chase, Martin Short, Steve Martin), but no shape.

THE HOLLYWOOD COMEDY COLLECTION (RCA/Columbia): Three recent comedies arbitrarily boxed together: *Roxanne* (1987, PG) with Steve Martin — a charming variation on *Cyrano de Bergerac*; the formula slapsick of *Blind Date* (1987, 15) — Bruce Willis's first bid for movie stardom; and *Three Amigos* (1986, PG), a western parody with good one-liners, an attractive star trio (Chevy Chase, Martin Short, Steve Martin), but no shape.

THE HOLLYWOOD CUT OF THIS WORLD COLLECTION (Warner): Sturdy box of wonders containing *Spacehunter*

(1983, 15), an old-fashioned futuristic romp with Peter Strauss as an Indiana Jones of outer space; *John Carpenter's The Fog* (1980, PG), with Jeff Bridges as the bemused alien discovering human habits and feelings; and the re-edited 1980 edition of Spielberg's magisterial *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (PG).

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## Cinema Verity's star continues to shine in the television sky

From cinema features to sitcoms, the name of Verity Lambert is still one to watch as television faces upheaval

between the BBC and Australia's Channel Seven (it will be filmed entirely in Australia).

"I have been visiting Australia on and off since 1979," Lambert explains, "and I love it; it is the most wonderful country. I really like the people, they have a great sense of humour. When I first went there I thought: 'why don't people around the world know what this country is like?' So I tried to find something that would encapsulate the attitudes and feel of the country, yet it worked not so parochial that it not worked so in Australia."

Lambert fixed on the so-called "new Australians": the Greeks, Italians, Vietnamese and Poles, who between them have altered the cultural fabric of a quietly chauvinist nation. Developed by writer Douglas Livingston, *The Boys from the Bush*, has emerged as a 10-part comedy drama about one extended family. Filming starts in the spring.

However, Cinema Verity has announced a drama series for Granada, which survived the fixpool. At present without a definite title, it is a seven-part drama about two young Londoners who have to leave London in a hurry.

"They go to Blackpool," Lambert says, "because their mother's family is from there, and because their uncle has left a small concession to them at the Blackpool funfair to them and the rest of their large northern family. The series is really about misconceptions and the way they affect the attitudes of people from the north and south."

The misconceptions of first impressions are also the theme of another Cinema Verity series, *The Boys from the Bush*, a collaboration between Paul Mendelson, who has kept his day job as creative head of an advertising agency, was introduced to Lambert by the film director Nicolas Roeg, after they had worked together on a commercial, but it was one of Cinema Verity's development staff who spotted the potential of the first *May to December* draft, while Lambert herself was in Australia with *A Cry in the Dark*.

Does Lambert, as a film producer and veteran of television drama, consider sitcoms a comedown? Far from it. "Half-hour sitcoms are terrific to do," she says. "First of all, I enjoy laughing, so if you can find something that makes people laugh, I'm all for it. And second, if it takes off, you're a regular commission coming back each year, so long as the actors and writers can do it."

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## Robin Hood to the rescue

played by Imogen Stubbs (who too often seems to be interpolated to provide feminine balance).

Philip Saville has become a very resourceful director, moving easily from the eccentric teenage world of *The Fruit Machine* to this period piece, and giving visual style to what must have been a modest budget (it was co-produced by the BBC and Home Box Office, in association with the British Film Institute). Florida stands in convincingly for Forties Hollywood, and Leamington Spa for austerity Fifties London.

A first film by Daniel Petrie, *Mystic Pizza* (15, Cannon, Haymarket, Oxford Street, Chelsea) is attractively located in a quiet little Portuguese-inhabited Connecticut fishing village. The story is rather less interesting: the prolonged romantic intrigues of three coming-of-age girls who work for the local pizza.

Each has her problems. JoJo (Lili Taylor) is reluctant to commit herself to marriage with her high school sweetheart; Kat (Annabeth Gish) suffers anguish when she falls for a faithfully married man for whom she babysits, and Daisy (Julie Roberts) finds herself in a predicament that preoccupies Hollywood, when she falls in love with someone from a smooth superior social class. I suspect that even British audiences of the generation of this trio will find their sorrows somewhat remote.

The smooth structure is flawed only by the failure wholly to explain and integrate the characters.



"King" Elvis: tarnished gold

(1985) features attractively garish Mississippi riverboat settings; *Follow That Dream* (1962) finds the King and his ragamuffin family setting up home on a Florida beach; in the feeble *Cambodia* (1987) he plays an oil millionaire, a strata star trio (Chevy Chase, Martin Short, Steve Martin), but no shape.

THE HOLLYWOOD COMEDY COLLECTION (RCA/Columbia): Three recent comedies arbitrarily boxed together: *Roxanne* (1987, PG) with Steve Martin — a charming variation on *Cyrano de Bergerac*; the formula slapsick of *Blind Date* (1987, 15) — Bruce Willis's first bid for movie stardom; and *Three Amigos* (1986, PG), a western parody with good one-liners, an attractive star trio (Chevy Chase, Martin Short, Steve Martin), but no shape.

THE HOLLYWOOD CUT OF THIS WORLD COLLECTION (Warner): Sturdy box of wonders containing *Spacehunter*

(1983, 15), an old-fashioned futuristic romp with Peter Strauss as an Indiana Jones of outer space; *John Carpenter's The Fog* (1980, PG), with Jeff Bridges as the bemused alien discovering human habits and feelings; and the re-edited 1980 edition of Spielberg's magisterial *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (PG).

MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN: A COMEDY COLLECTION (Warner): You taped *John Cleese in Michael Frayn's Clockwise* (1985, PG) off the television over Christmas; now buy it in a box with two other British comedies. *Clement and La Frenais' lame Caribbean satire Water* (1985, 15) would get few punters if privatized; *Alan Bennett's A Private Function* (1984, 15), a quaint comic study in post-war austerity and social bickering, spreads its material too thinly, but the cast (Maggie Smith, Michael Palin) and the pig are delightful.

RIVER OF DEATH (Pathé, 15): Mediocre trudge through Alastair MacLean's novel, featuring Michael Dudikoff as the Amazon jungle guide entangled with cannibals and Nazis. Sleepy performances from Robert Vaughn and Donald Pleasence. Steve Carver directs, 1988.

WORLD GONE WILD (Warner, 18): Futuristic hokum of the *Mad Max* school, with a silly plot, a threadbare look and tame direction (Lee H. Katzin). Bruce Dern gets the best of things as magician Ethan, determined to avenge Adam Ant's raid on a desert community. 1988.

her way to indigestion. But meetings do not make programmes, and Lambert admits that the first few



# Life's twilight years

THE TELEVISION GUIDE

Peter Waymark

Though the action of *Ending Up* (ITV, 8.30pm) takes place over Christmas and the New Year, this is a seasonal offering that has rightly been left until the festivities are over. It is an adaptation by Douglas Livingstone of Kingsley Amis's barbed comic novel about the pain of growing old, a theme explored through the five elderly occupants of a remote country cottage. Lurching between tragedy and farce, it is one of those uncomfortable pieces that leaves the audience wondering whether the appropriate response is laughter or pity or both at the same time. The bleakness of the subject is to an extent alleviated by the



Sir John Mills: as Bernard, the cruel and intolerant brigadier (ITV, 8.30pm)

casting of familiar names (John Mills, Wendy Hiller, Michael Hordern, Googie Withers and Lionel Jeffries). Actors less well known might have had a different effect. As it is there is a fascinating tension between memories of the decent, morally upright characters usually played by John Mills and the cruel and intolerant brigadier he portrays here. As the brigadier's former partner, Lionel Jeffries supplies the nearest thing to comic relief and does so with his usual expertise, while Michael Hordern's professor, bed-ridden after a stroke, comes closest to a figure of pathos. Though she is apt to forget the car keys, Wendy Hiller provides the cool, calm centre. While the time sequence imposes some sort of structure, *Ending Up* puts character before dramatic shape and the introduction of a younger element (a visit by the grandchildren and their families) fails to spark the expected contrasts across the generations. Another possible problem is the ceding, which for those who have not read the book, I will not be irresponsible enough to divulge.

Coping with old age also happens to be the theme of David Renwick's comedy, *One Foot in the Grave* (BBC1, 9.30pm), which stars the excellent Richard Wilson as a security officer suddenly made redundant at the age of 60. The joke, if this is the right word for a somewhat sombre piece, is that instead of welcoming his new found leisure, he has no idea what to do with it. A grouchy temperament does not help. Those who have admired Wilson's other television work, from *Tutti Frutti to Hot Metal*, will enjoy again his skilled playing and ability to squeeze the last drop out of a line of dialogue. They may also find *One Foot in the Grave* too near the truth to be funny.

12.30 *May to December*, Solitair Alec decides to give Zoe a little surprise to complement the happy relationship with the arrival of her dearest, but he does not get the reception he expects. Starring Anton Rodgers and Eve Matheson. (Cestax)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. Regional news and weather (see choice)

10.30 *Precious Miles*. A tender love story, based on Mary Webb's best-seller set in 1960s Shropshire, about Prue who was born with a facial disfigurement which the local sorcerers believe is caused by a curse on her family. Prue is determined to run away from this "curse" and educates herself while her brother, determined to better himself, pursues the beautiful Jancis. Starring Janet McTeer, John McEnery, Jane Wood and John Bowes (r)

5.00 *ITV Morning News* with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

BBC 1

6.00 *Ceefax*  
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer. News headlines, business news, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins and a review of the morning newspapers by Paul Callan. 8.35 Regional news and weather

9.00 *News and Weather* followed by Children's BBC. Introduced by Lisa Jones and Andi Peters, begins with *It's Showtime* and the *Set Set* (r). 9.10 *Charlie Brown in Shovelling* (r). 9.30 *Fame and Misfortune*. The sixth and final episode of the Australian drama serial starring Kylie Minoque.

10.00 *News and Weather* followed by *Record Breakers* (Domino Special). An attempt on the world domino-toppling record (r)

10.30 *Playdays*. Sam Patch meets a herd of Friesian cows at Longdown in Hampshire (r). 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Iain Cuthbertson with a reading.

11.00 *News and Weather* followed by *Head of the Class*, American comedy series starring Howard Hesseman as the teacher of a group of gifted but confused teenagers. 11.35 *Paddles Up*. The ladies' heat of the international canoeing competition from Llangollen, North Wales. The commentators are Chris Rea, John Gosling and Richard Fox.

12.00 *News and Weather* followed by *The High Chappet*. Open on a Day in Spring, Victoria goes to her father's ranch for some peace, but finds herself becoming involved in family problems. Starring Linda Crystal, Lari Erickson and Cameron Mitchell (r). 12.55 *Regional News and Weather*

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather

1.30 *ITV News*. Scors resists the predatory advances of a young woman? (Cestax) 1.50 *Curry on Ice*. John Curry shows his six young pupils at the International Ice Bowl in Dundonald, Belfast, how to do Hawk and Chopjaw turns and spreadsheets.

2.15 *Peter the Great*. Peter embarks on a grand tour of Europe, during which he absorbs ideas that will change his country. But public opinion is growing against his lengthy stay and he is forced to allow the tyrannical side to his nature. Starring Marisa Mell, Venuesse Redgrave, Omer Sharif and Laurence Olivier. (Cestax)

3.30 *Doddy Duck's Disco* (r). 4.00 *Charlie Chalk* (r). 4.15 *Jackanory*, Victoria Wood and Martin Jarvis with part three of *Alian Alhberg's Ten in a Bed* (r). 4.25 *New York Bear Show* 4.30 *Alfonso Benzo*. Episode one of a new six-part children's drama serial starring Scott Riley and Alex Jennings.

4.45 *Newswatch* 5.05 *Blue Peter*. (Cestax)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Cestax)

6.00 *One O'Clock News* with Weather

7.00 *Top of the Pops* introduced by Gary Davies. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1.

7.30 *EastEnders*. Shirley explains to Trevor why she can't go out with him again, while her father meets his mistress in the Queen Vic — much to the curiosity of the clients. (Cestax)

8.00 *Tomorrow's World* includes a report from Howard Stevenston on the erosion of the Mississippi Delta.

8.30 *May to December*, Solitair Alec decides to give Zoe a little surprise to complement the happy relationship with the arrival of her dearest, but he does not get the reception he expects. Starring Anton Rodgers and Eve Matheson. (Cestax)

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5.00 *ITV Morning News* with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

THEATRE

6.00 *TV-am* begins with *News and Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Keys and from 7.00 by Mike Morris and Linda Mitchell. 8.30 *Wecademy* with Timmy Mallett.

9.25 *The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin*. A dazzling noise wakes the Ruxpin cottage. Is it a Gutang raid or a monster attack? (r) 9.30 *Thames News and Headlines*

10.00 *The Magic Mirror*. *Big Fish, Little Fish* and *the Beanstalk*. Two more classic stories, introduced by David Bellamy and Muriel Gray. 10.35 *Roundabout*. Two cartoons (r). 10.50 *News and Weather*

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# Government facing rates revolt on the backbenches

By Sheila Game, Political Reporter

Conservative MPs are demanding extra help for small businesses in this year's budget to offset the huge rate rises faced by shopkeepers and new firms in the party's heartlands.

The MPs disclosed yesterday that they plan to concentrate their protests against the new uniform 34.8 per cent business rate, which comes into force in April, on the need to help the "backbone" of the party.

Two leading Tory backbenchers, Sir Rhodes Boyson and Mr Andrew Rowe, emphasized that they had no quarrel with the Government's long-term aim of pegging business rates to the rate of inflation, since the policy would make it easier for businesses to plan ahead.

They do not intend, either, to do battle at Westminster to reduce the swelling rates faced by the "Harrod's and Sainsburys".

Instead the Government faces a replay of the largely successful campaign by its backbenchers to help poll-tax payers who, despite living under prudent local authorities, faced big increases.

Sir Rhodes, a former Local Government Minister, said the Government needed to unveil a programme to help small businesses to offset the rate rises in the Tory heartlands. That would be more acceptable than demanding across-the-board help from the Treasury.

Leading article, page 13

## Mrs Thatcher praises Fowler's achievements

Continued from page 1

15 years ago and have served in Cabinet for the past 10 years in three Departments. That is a record to be proud of.

Your achievements in that time have been substantial, for example the highly-successful privatization of the National Freight Corporation; the improvement of the Health Service; and the most extensive reforms of the social security system since the war.

I know you take great satisfaction, and deservedly so, in the rapid spread of personal pensions.

Most recently, you have worked to set up the Training and Enterprise Councils, thereby giving employers a greater stake than ever before in the development of the country's manpower.

You saw through most

successfully the ending of the Dock Labour Scheme which has given fresh hope and opportunity to the old Scheme.

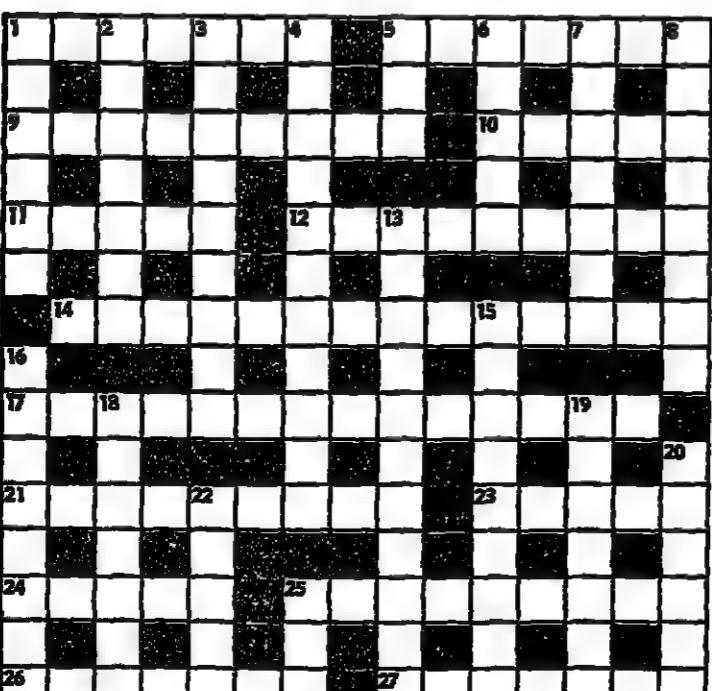
To all these tasks you have brought great political skills, in particular an ability to communicate effectively both in Parliament and with the wider world.

Though your counsels will be missed in Cabinet, I know that from the backbenches you will continue to give magnificent service to the country, and to the Midlands in particular.

I am delighted that Her Majesty The Queen has approved that the honour of a knighthood be conferred upon you.

With every good wish for the future to you and Fiona, Warm regards, Yours ever, Margaret.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,182



### ACROSS

- Running dogs I have to follow behind (7).
- A drinking man (7).
- Making void the marriage of girl to some fellows in the last month (9).
- Worker leaves police officer worried (5).
- This strip of material needs a press right away (5).
- George is a car driver (9).
- A line of children hurried to produce by omission (3,5).
- Visions of saints in places that are extraordinary (7,2,5).
- The latest way to govern tyrannically (4-5).
- An animal seen around the joint... (5).
- An or animal seen around the vehicle (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,181

APERITIF LIZARD  
O E R G E N E  
STUDIO RAVENOUS  
H U P O E T Y  
HORNBILL RAYTHE  
L D O N C D A L L O  
CEDAR STAGPARTY  
A N E L I D E  
PANTOMIME AMBER  
R E B U E A I V Y  
ISABEL SUPERMAN  
C T A S A A S  
OPERETTA CELTIC  
R S O K H T O  
MATTER EVERYONE

### DOWN

- In which a steer is restrained (6).
- Bitterness in private hearing (7).
- "I will turn up", I state - it's unreasonable (9).
- Soldiers turned up and saluted in the country (7,4).
- Girl's portion (3).
- A stance taken up by author (5).
- Primate installs running water in former Portuguese territory (7).
- Discuss one's English paper (8).
- Army fast to reject one seeking potential for entertainment (6,5).
- Is patriot indisposed in a clipper? (9).
- ... I cross miserably in steamer or cutter (8).
- Weapon - it finally pierces warlord (7).
- What gilmen do, lacking society, in small reservoir (3-4).
- Point, perhaps, and mock when someone good comes in (6).
- Quiet girl in velvet (5).
- Bird food (3).

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

### GLEDOVEK

- A Welsh name
- A Hindu fairy
- A Highland mountain pass

### PALISANIES

- To fall between two stools
- A hermaphrodite
- The Persian rosewood

### ETHNOMOID

- Like a sieve
- Concerned with indigenous tribes
- The wisest roads

Answers on page 20

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M25 London Orbital only 726

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 727

West Country 728

West Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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Concise crossword, page 20

## Clarke defends ambulance policy

By Tim Jones and Jill Sherman

council passed a resolution expressing "grave concern" at the length of the dispute which was having a "deteriorating effect on the care of patients".

In an apparent reference to a letter sent by Mr Clarke to the daughter of an ambulance man, the BMA chairman, Dr John Marks, said: "The idea that moving an elderly lady from upstairs to go to hospital is something that a taxi-driver could do in an affront to ambulance personnel and an affront to all caring professions."

Mr Clarke complained that he had been "stitched up" by the unions and by the BBC's *Today* programme which he said, had quoted parts of the letter out of context.

In his lengthy reply to the ambulance man's daughter, Mr Clarke said the vast majority of ambulance staff had no

extended paramedical training at all. "They are professional drivers, a worldwide job - but not an exceptional one."

He said the accident and emergency work her father sometimes carried out represented only one in 10 of patients carried. "The great bulk of the ambulance service is caring and responsible work, but it is the routine transport of people to clinics and outpatients' departments".

While Mr Clarke told the health authority chairman that the "claims of patients are now more important than the ambitions of trades unions", Mr Robin Cook, Labour's shadow health secretary, said Labour would devote the opposition debate on Thursday to the week to the dispute.

Mr Clarke, in his letter, said he had no intention of bargaining directly with the ambulance unions. He said the service's Whitley Council negotiating body had to remain in the place where claims were made and negotiated.

The pay structure of the service had to do more than enhance the status and improve the pay of the paramedical staff upon whom the accident and emergency services increasingly depended.

Mr Roger Poole, the unions' chief negotiator, claimed Mr Clarke had "failed to grasp the realities of this dangerous dispute", and added that his letter was full of distortions.

In the West Midlands it was

revealed that six Labour-controlled councils might set up an alternative regional ambulance service. This was condemned by Mr Barry John, the region's chief ambulance officer, who said another service would confuse the public.

## Cabinet rift over drink-drive powers

Continued from page 1

existing powers which continue to be misunderstood by some magistrates and by members of the public.

His firm stand, however, is being challenged by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, and Mr Robert Atkins, Minister for Roads and Traffic, who feel that too many people still drink more than they should before driving, knowing they are unlikely to be breathalysed.

They would like police to be able, at certain times, to set up road blocks at which all drivers would be tested.

However, the department's determination to do more to crack down on drink-driving stops short of it supporting genuine random testing or the police's more radical demand for an "unfettered discretion"

to breathalyse. At present, police can legally carry out tests only where drivers have been in an accident, have committed a moving traffic offence or if they suspect a person has been drinking.

• The number of motorists in England and Wales who failed breathalyser tests over Christmas and the New Year dropped by 1.3 per cent compared to the previous year (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Mr Peter Joslin, Chief Constable of Warwickshire, called for random testing to hit the "hard-core" who believed they could get away with it.

• Scottish police expressed dismay yesterday over the number of people caught drinking and driving over the New Year holiday (Kerry Gill writes). Figures in most areas were higher than last year.

### WEATHER

There may be a little rain in the north-east. Thicker cloud will bring outbreaks of rain to Northern Ireland during the morning, this rain spreading to most other western and northern districts by evening, and turning quite windy for a time, too. Central, eastern and southern parts of England should have a dry day. Outlook: unsettled, with some rain; generally breezy.

### ABROAD

London 8.05pm: Thunderstorms; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain; 4am: rain; 5am: rain; 6am: rain; 7am: rain; 8am: rain; 9am: rain; 10am: rain; 11am: rain; 12pm: rain; 1pm: rain; 2pm: rain; 3pm: rain; 4pm: rain; 5pm: rain; 6pm: rain; 7pm: rain; 8pm: rain; 9pm: rain; 10pm: rain; 11pm: rain; 12am: rain; 1am: rain; 2am: rain; 3am: rain

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6110 (-0.0015)  
W German mark  
2.7733 (+0.0224)  
Exchange index  
87.0 (+0.2)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1988.3 (+34.2)  
FT-SE 100  
2463.7 (+29.6)  
USM (Datstream)  
156.08 (+3.06)

How green  
are our  
railways?

Trains import an environmental benefit compared with car transport, so why not award grants to the railways on those grounds?

The prospect is explored by Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, in a special assessment for *The Times* of current transport policy.

Analysis, page 27

## FNFC ahead

First National Finance Corporation, the consumer credit group, lifted profits by 4 per cent to £71.6 million. Earnings fell 2 per cent to 30.6p, but a 8.5p final dividend makes 13p, up 13 per cent.

Tempus, page 24

## Savills down

Profits at Savills, the surveyor and estate agent, fell 24 per cent to £2.94 million in the six months to October. Earnings fell 28 per cent to 5.2p, but the interim dividend is held at 1.125p. Tempus, page 24

## STOCK MARKETS

New York  
Dow Jones 2612.93 (+2.78)  
Tokyo  
Nikkei Average Closed  
Hong Kong 2663.72 (+21.65)  
Amsterdam  
CBS Telerate 119.5 (+1.8)  
Singapore 1050.2 (+31.5)  
Frankfurt DAX 1869.65 (+62.20)  
Brussels  
General 8580.03 (+70.00)  
Paris CAC 632.7 (+3.3)  
London  
FT-SE All-Share 1225.03 (+18.91)  
FT-SE "500" 1338.65 (+18.43)  
FT Gold Miners 308.9 (-0.6)  
FT Food Intervent 82.84 (+0.10)  
FT Govt Secs 94.18 (-0.04)

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:  
Henderson Admin 787.4p (+20p)  
Borkin 844.2p (+20p)  
HFC Group 1.12p (+1p)  
Tiburon Group 750p (+20p)  
News Corp 602.4p (+20p)  
Poly Peck 418.2p (+20p)  
Oceans Transport 332.2p (+20p)  
Tiphook 452.2p (+20p)  
SG Warburg 484.4p (+20p)  
Trotter House 500.2p (+20p)  
Bank One 2852.0p (+20p)  
Eurocentral Units 670.2p (+20p)  
Globe 805.9p (+20p)  
A Kershaw 520.2p (+20p)  
Body Shop 844.4p (+20p)  
FALLS:  
A Cohen 800p (-25p)  
Davies & Newman 755p (-10p)  
Midland 387.2p (-10p)  
Gates 87.2p (-10p)  
S Miller 193.2p (-20p)  
Repco 245.2p (-20p)  
SEAG Volume 649.4m

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%  
3-month interbank: 15%  
3-month eligible bills: 14% to 14.5%  
US Prime Rate: 10%  
Federal Funds: 8% to 9%  
30-day T-bill: 7.84-7.82%  
30-year bonds: 101.2-101.25%

## CURRENCIES

London  
\$ 1.6110  
£ DM277.33  
\$ SWF1.5778  
£ FT 1.224.59  
\$ Index 97.9  
£ EU 80.734588  
\$ SDR 20.812117  
£ EU 361.2983  
\$ SDR 1.281349

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$395.30 pm \$395.00  
close \$394.25-394.75 (\$244.50-  
245.00)  
New York  
Comex \$395.50-396.00"

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brut (Feb) ... \$21.50 bbl (\$20.45)  
"Dow Jones latest trading price

## TOURIST RATES

Bank  
Boys  
Sots  
Austrian Sh 2.165 1.972  
Swiss Fr 1.550 1.530  
Canadian \$ 1.953 1.945  
Danish Kr 11.18 10.58  
French Fr 8.97 8.91  
German Dm 2.28 2.27  
Swiss Fr 27.5 25.4  
Hong Kong \$ 12.55 12.33  
Italian L 1.107 1.037  
New Yen 217.00 208.00  
Netherlands Gld 3.245 3.085  
Norway Kr 11.20 10.54  
Portuguese Esc 2.55 2.50  
South Africa Rand 4.42 4.34  
Swiss Fr 185.30 174.50  
Swedish Kr 10.52 9.92  
Switzerland Fr 2.64 2.605  
Turkey Lira 425.00 395.00  
West \$ 1.02 1.00  
Yugoslavia Dinar 20.00000

Rates for small denominations bank notes are quoted by *Swiss Bank*. P.L.O. different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 118.5 (November)

★ ★ ★ ★

Crash memories are buried as FT-SE leaps 29.6 points to 2,463.7

# London shares at record high

By Michael Clark and Graham Seargent

Share prices surged to their highest-ever levels on the London stock market yesterday on the back of optimistic economic forecasts and buoyant foreign markets, as the City belatedly joined other leading financial centres in putting the crash of October 1987 behind it.

The FT-SE 100 share index rose by 29.6 to a record close of 2,463.7 — having been up 32 points in early trading — as more than £5 billion was added to the stock market value of Britain's publicly quoted companies.

The closing level comfortably exceeded the previous best close of 2,443.4, achieved on July 17, 1987 — just three months before the crash — and even overhauled the market's high-point of 2,455.2 recorded earlier that same day during a summer of speculation.

By the close of business last night 641 million shares had been traded as institutional investors bought heavily after prices had been marked up in the morning. Dealers said the business had been all one-way helping to fuel the rise.

One leading broker said: "Many fund managers have missed the boat. They have

resisted the urge to invest funds and now they certainly can't deal in any size."

Investors have concluded that there will be no further rise in interest rates because sterling has stabilized on the foreign exchanges, the trade deficit appears to have peaked and the squeeze has already had a significant effect on consumer spending and the overtraded market.

Two leading securities groups — BZW and UBS Phillips & Drew are still forecasting that the index will not end the year much above 2,500.

Mr Mark Brown of Phillips & Drew said that investors were taking comfort from the good points in economic prospects and neglecting the risks.

But brokers are divided about stock market prospects. Nomura Securities forecasts the FT-SE 100 Index will reach 2,700 by the end of March and could reach 3,200 by the year-end.

But Mr Paul Walton, equity market strategist at Smith New Court gave a warning: "If we hit 2,500 too rapidly, as looks likely, we are neutral on the market for the next six months and would consider taking profits on the big capital stocks, or buy second

shares."

Much of the recent rise in share prices has come from City institutions buying back into retailing, building and other sectors hit by high interest rates and the economic squeeze.

Mr Jeffrey said he could understand the reluctance of big investors to put money into equities much earlier in the economic cycle than they normally would. Most City analysts cautioned against un-

ders.

He expects the FT-SE 100 to be trading at about 2,800 by the year-end. Mr Richard Jeffrey of Hoare Govett, which has the same forecast, said that the market could prove volatile, with big falls on some days as well as further rises.

Although forecasts of overall profit growth vary between about 5 per cent and 11 per cent, helped by the effect of the fall in the pound on overseas earnings, company earnings will rise at a slower pace than for several years.

The recent upsurge in prices

has been fuelled by the financial institutions' big cash balances, bolstered by an estimated £10 billion in the past six months from takeovers.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, head of investments at the Prudential, has estimated that up to £50 billion may have built up in institutional coffers and is now looking to find its way back into the stock market.

But London still has some

way to go before it catches up with some overseas markets.

In Tokyo, share prices are now

nearly 30 per cent higher than

their pre-crash peak. On Wall

Street and in Frankfurt, new

peaks were scaled shortly be-

fore the mini-crash last Octo-

ber, when London just failed

to move into higher ground.

German share prices have

risen by a further 10 per cent

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TEMPUS

# FNFC demonstrates staying power

First National Finance is often seen as a weather vane of consumer credit, liable to catch cold when economic winds freshen. None the less it has proved once more that it is a survivor.

The gain in profits of 4 per cent to £71.6 million may have been £2 million lower than City forecasts, and a long way from the company's double-digit growth of previous years, but was still better than figures from many of its rivals.

Second-half profits actually fell 4 per cent to £36.5 million, while the year's diluted earnings slid 2 per cent after a higher tax charge. At least the final of 8.5p, raised from 8p, means the year's payout of 13p is up 13 per cent.

The real blow to growth came from property development rather than the lending operations. Property operating profits slid 20 per cent to £11.7 million, due to a decline in the number of sites.

Consumer credit, by contrast, increased its contribution by 5 per cent to £48.7 million, despite the much publicized downturn in consumer credit.

For this, First National can be grateful for its absence from the fixed-rate loan market; it does no hire purchase car financing. Its floating rates of interest may not make it the most competitive lender in the market, but they do at least maintain its margins.

Mr Tom Wrigley, the chief executive, admits that the company's first mortgage business has suffered a serious downturn. But new business has continued to arrive in the form of second mortgages and home improvement loans.

The past year, he says, was one of the conservatory, and First National finances a third of that market.

If the consumer lending market continues to stagnate, then expansion in smaller company lending, where profits grew 36 per cent to £15.8 million, and now insurance broking should ensure the group's forward momentum.

Years over the slowdown in consumer credit have left the shares unmoved for more than a year. On profits of £73 million this year, they are, at 239p, on a p/e ratio of under 8 and could return to favour rapidly when the interest rate picture begins to brighten.

## Savills

With interest rates at present levels, it was only a matter of time before the strains caught up with the suppliers of specialist services to the property sector.

In that context, the 24 per cent fall in Savills pre-tax profits to £2.94 million in the six months to October was relatively mild, although it is clear that 1990 will be a tough year.

Savills' strength lies in the broad range of agency and



Property development seen as black sheep: Tom Wrigley with Richard Langdon, right, FNFC chairman, yesterday

professional services it supplies, and its diverse client base. When its shares were offered for sale at 125p in mid-1988, Savills' commercial property services accounted for about half of operating profits, with the remainder split evenly between its residential estate agencies and its agricultural business.

The company does not di-

vide and managing farms has remained relatively stable, the setback on the residential side accounted for virtually all the decline in group profits, and raised the proportion coming from commercial property to 80 per cent.

But within that sector there was a sharp switch in both the origin of its profits and its clientele. Commissions on property sales, formerly three-fifths of commercial profits, fell away and were offset by a doubling in the contribution from professional services such as valuations.

Analysts are looking for full-year profits nearer £4.5 million after £6.52 million last time. That would mean fully diluted earnings of 7.6p and a prospective p/e ratio of 10 with the shares languishing at 77p. Despite its defensive qualities, Savills' shares are likely to be lumped with other estate agencies while property sits in the doldrums.

## Pepe Group

Pepe is the jeans maker, in need of a boost to win new friends because the group's earnings rose by only 4.8 per cent to 15.2p a share in the six months to end-September.

While interim sales rose by 41.4 per cent to £64.3 million, and operating profit was 20.9 per cent higher at £7.71 million, a sharply higher interest charge at £1.1 million stunted

the growth at the pre-tax level from £3.69 million to £4.05 million. Higher tax checked the attributable profit line.

Market reaction was a 5p dip in the share price to 270p, which is 75p below last July's rights issue price. However, the interim dividend rises by 25 per cent to 2.5p a share, payable April 6, suggesting that disappointing half-time results might be a blip.

The world of jeans and other casual wear was mixed for Pepe with difficult trading conditions in Britain — compounded by the loss of one large customer — but with West Germany, France and the Benelux countries all zipping ahead.

Overseas sales now account for 60 per cent of group turnover, and population movements in Eastern Europe and falling trade barriers could make up for ground lost at home.

Gearing is 35 per cent, interest cover remains a healthy seven times, and there is market belief that newly appointed managing director Tony Reading (ex-Polly Peck) will soon be able to put the fire back into Pepe's figures.

Pre-tax profits this year to end March of £14.5 million (£12.8 million) would translate into net earnings of 32.5p a share, to give a prospective p/e of 8.3. The shares, like jeans, should be worn for the longer term.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Sea Containers set to meet on February 24

Sea Containers, under \$1.12 billion (£595 million) takeover threat from the Anglo-Swedish consortium Temple, has set February 24 for the date of its special general meeting to consider its rival recapitalization plan. The meeting will be in Hamilton, Bermuda, with shareholders on record on January 19 entitled to vote.

The Sealink shipping group said it had yet to set a date for its other impending special general meeting, called by Temple in its attempt to have the existing Sea Containers board removed. This would most likely take place early in March, probably also in Bermuda.

### Peel rejects property deal

Peel Holdings, the property company which is run by Mr John Whitaker, has pulled out of its agreement to acquire Instantprint from one of the company's directors and his wife after detailed residential planning permission for the land was not granted by the deadline of December 31. Instantprint's sole asset is eight acres of land at Rochdale, Lancashire.

### Foseco grows in France

Foseco, maker of metallurgical chemicals and ceramics, has enlarged its continental activities by buying 65 per cent of Servimetal for £2.5 million cash from French state-owned group Pechiney. Servimetal, based in Chambery, France, supplies the non-ferrous foundry and wrought aluminium markets. Servimetal had net assets of £2.9 million in December 1988.

### Hollas rises to £1.45m

Hollas Group, the Manchester-based clothing distributor and yarn processor, lifted pre-tax profits 22.6 per cent to £1.45 million in the six months to end-September, but gave warning that it was feeling the effects of the downturn in retail trade, and margin pressure in its importing business, which accounts for more than half of profits.

Turnover rose 36.7 per cent to £28.5 million, but interest charges nearly doubled from £284,000 to £521,000. Earnings slipped from 2.6p to 2.3p while the interim dividend climbs to 1.6p (1.5p). The shares firmed by 1p to 42p.

### SBJ raises £1.2m in sale

Steel Barril Jones Group, the Lloyd's insurance and reinsurance broker, has sold its freehold interest in Stephenson House in Gravesend, Kent, for £1.21 million to a locally-based businessman. The proceeds will be used to raise the working capital of SBJ Stephenson, its non-Lloyd's brokerage acquired in April 1988, and SBJ. The shares firmed by 1p to 28.5p.

### Carclo £1.9m expansion

Carclo Engineering, through Francis W Birkett and Sons, is buying the business of, and property occupied by, Hills Diecasting and its subsidiary, Hills Non-ferrous, a foundry business in Greenwich, London, for £1.9 million in cash. Hills has net assets of about £1.4 million. Turnover and pre-tax profits for the year ended September 30 were £3.3 million and £100,000 respectively.

### Brooker for Cowells

Mr Alan Brooker, for seven years chairman of Excel Group and currently deputy chairman of Provident Financial Group, is to be chairman of Serif Cowells, the board game group which owns the European rights to *Trivial Pursuit*.

He replaces Mr Peter Barker, who continues as non-executive director. Mr Brooker is also chairman of Kode International. After problems at the Cowells printing side, Serif Cowells lost three executives last year. Interim figures were cut back by £684,000 in compensation payments, with pre-tax profits crashing from £1.81 million to just £74,000.

### Severn Trent in venture with Acer

By Our Financial Staff

Severn Trent has formed a joint venture with the Acer Group, the engineering consultants, to provide extra design capacity for the integrated water group's £4 billion investment programme.

Acer will transfer 50 of its 1,000 staff to the new company, Acer Engineering. Severn Trent will own 35 per cent.

### A global view of stock markets

The Times is introducing a new reader service — a series of stock market indices that allow investors to assess the performance of various world markets on a comparable basis. The Morgan Stanley Capital International series, created in 1968 as the Capital International Indices, is the recognized international standard, published in business newspapers around the world.

The Times will publish the indices daily, expressing the

#### WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chgns (£)	Yearly chgns (£)	Daily chgns (%)	Yearly chgns (%)	Daily chgns (US\$)	Yearly chgns (US\$)
The World ("free")	847.6	0.5	29.2	0.6	23.8	0.2	15.3
EAFFE	182.1	0.5	29.2	0.7	23.9	0.2	15.3
Europe ("free")	1553.2	0.4	22.1	0.8	20.9	0.1	9.9
Europe ("free")	159.9	0.4	21.9	0.5	20.9	0.1	8.7
North America	768.3	1.0	41.9	1.3	31.0	0.7	26.6
Nordic ("free")	165.3	1.1	42.7	1.3	28.7	0.3	29.0
Pacific ("free")	1547.2	0.4	44.7	0.3	27.5	0.1	27.1
Far East	3925.8	0.1	56.1	1.3	38.7	0.4	39.2
Australia	5722.0	0.0	12.8	0.1	16.5	-0.2	0.9
Austria	352.2	1.7	20.0	0.0	16.6	-0.3	0.6
Belgium	1882.3	5.7	155.3	1.9	115	1.3	7.0
Canada	992.0	0.9	20.4	0.9	20.4	0.5	12.7
Denmark	608.9	0.9	58.2	0.8	20.0	0.6	23.2
Finland ("free")	1284.0	-0.9	55.5	0.0	34.6	-1.2	38.7
France	111.1	-0.9	-4.1	-0.3	-16.1	-1.2	-14.5
Germany	146.0	-0.2	22.0	0.4	6.7	-0.5	8.8
Hong Kong	948.0	-1.2	47.1	-0.4	26.8	-1.5	31.2
Italy	2234.9	0.9	66.8	0.7	43.6	4.8	48.6
Japan	384.1	0.4	31.1	1.2	14.8	0.0	16.9
Netherlands	6094.4	0.0	122.0	0.0	16.5	-0.3	0.1
New Zealand	951.5	0.4	48.2	1.3	27.8	0.2	32.2
Norway	107.9	5.0	26.1	4.6	18.7	4.6	12.5
Singapore	1419.5	3.4	70.4	3.8	53.9	3.1	52.0
Spain	2041.5	1.2	60.9	1.4	40.7	0.9	43.5
Sweden	235.4	-0.8	18.7	0.1	3.5	-1.1	5.9
Switzerland ("free")	1739.6	0.4	44.5	0.8	31.5	0.1	28.9
UK	919.5	1.8	54.0	1.4	40.2	0.6	37.4
USA	734.0	1.3	40.3	2.6	31.0	1.5	25.1
Local currency	493.3	0.6	45.2	0.3	34.4	1.0	19.9
Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International							

Real zebras, like most things in life, aren't just black and white.

Even the whitest stripe contains a few grey hairs. Reality is, after all, mostly shades of grey. That's why Hitachi's late-model faxes feature a 16-step grey scale to clearly transmit even subtle shades. This capability results from a proprietary 0.125 mm dot scanning pattern and an image-processing LSI. Meticulous integration of these two technologies assures exceptional accuracy of tones over a range so wide that you can even judge the quality of a photograph.

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هذا من الأصل

Sun Alliance buys travel group's minority holding for £5.25m

# Hogg sells estate agency stake

Continuing losses and little prospect of immediate improvement have persuaded Hogg Robinson to sell its remaining 40 per cent stake in Hogg Robinson Property Services, its estate agency.

Sun Alliance, which acquired 60 per cent of the 90-branch business for £16.5 million last May, is now paying just £5.25 million for the outstanding minority.

Hogg Robinson had intended to keep the minority for five years. But in view of the continuing losses both parties felt it was in its own interest to bring the original agreement to an end. Under

By Jeremy Andrews

the May deal, Sun Alliance agreed to pay a further £1.5 million for the exclusive right to sell financial services through Hogg's 200-branch travel agency network.

This time it is paying £4.75 million for the stake, plus £500,000 for support services to Hogg Robinson Property Services until September. The deal is a small one for Sun Alliance, currently capitalized at £2.73 billion.

Mr Scott Nelson, Sun Alliance's general manager, was happy with the decision to renegotiate the original agreement as it brought the average price per branch down from

£300,000 to less than £250,000. The chain's losses have been reduced from £3.9 million in the second half of 1988-89 by the closure and mothballing of about 20 branches, he said.

Hogg Robinson had the option to sell out in 1994 using a formula based on 10 times the estates agencies' earnings less accumulated losses.

Mr Chris Brown, Hogg Robinson's finance director, said that although the chain's 1988-89 losses were known about when the original terms were worked out, he had expected the market would recover earlier than now appears likely.

Now, however, it appeared that the accumulated losses which would have been subtracted from the final payment might have been substantial.

Kingfisher has unwrapped a weighty document which purports to be an analysis of the real value of Dixons. It is nothing of the kind, more an attempt to make Dixons shareholders wonder whether they have been served up microwaved sets of accounts for the past several years. It fails because it is overlong, overcomplicated and makes use of a limited number of new facts to arrive at conclusions all unflattering to

customer buys the package, and without the overheads of shops, sales staff and advertising, there would be no service to sell, nowhere to sell it and nobody to sell it to. It is equally foolish to strip away from the retail profit the effect of financing the business. Kingfisher seems to suggest that the only "real" profit is that generated in the shop, and that use or abuse of working capital is almost irrelevant. It is not, as anyone who works for Kingfisher would testify.

Kingfisher shreds the Dixons profits into constituent parts to support the conclusion it is a hopeless retailer which makes little or no profit. Kingfisher has reclassified Dixons' profits for 1987-88, the last year for which all the data is available, and has shrunk the "UK retail" profits from £58.8 million to £16.8 million. The missing £42 million has been reallocated to financial services and property, and Kingfisher has given the exercise a spurious authenticity by listing sources and assumptions running to two close-typed pages.

The reallocation, however well-documented and spurious, is nonsense. It takes what is effectively a package sale of goods and services, loads all the costs on to the goods, and then claims all the profit is made on the services. The reality is that the

## Kingfisher takes aim but misses the target

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## A peak worth the hard climb

It was a long time coming. So there was as much a feeling of relief as euphoria as London share prices finally recovered from the October 1987 crash to reach an all-time high.

Tokyo had sailed onwards and upwards after just a few months. Wall Street and Frankfurt managed it just before the mini-crash of last October. London was on the brink at that time but had the cup of joy dashed from investors' lips at the crucial moment.

The aim is to cut coke consumption in the blast furnace by more than half. At present, British Steel uses about 9.5 million tonnes a year of coking coal, costing about £350 million. One issue will be how far the substitution of granulated coal might be cheaper.

The key savings are likely to be in the elimination of a large proportion of coke oven batteries which are used in the new-generation integrated steel-making plants to produce coke from coal.

It is still classed as a research project, costing £6.4 million, but it is supported by two other European steel producers, Hoogovens of Holland and ILVA of Italy.

It is also the biggest project of its type with backing from the European Community's ECSC iron and steel demonstration programme.

between 5 and 11 per cent this year. But much of that is thanks to the effect of sterling depreciation on overseas profits, particularly of big international companies. There will be some nasty surprises at home. And there would be a big setback if the pound has not stabilized and interest rates peaked.

### Shareholders denied

It was widely reported as wanting £30 million. It went for £20 million. It probably got £10 million. But shareholders in T&N, the erstwhile Turner & Newall, are unlikely ever to be told just how much the company receives in settlement of the long-running AE affair.

As part of its settlement with Hill Samuel, T&N has given up any legal proceedings against Cazenove, the broker, which was also censured by the Takeover Panel. All parties are bound by one of those convenient confidentiality agreements that prevent anyone breaking ranks and saying just who did what to whom, and who was paid.

Any recovery, therefore, by Hill Samuel against Cazenove, should such eventually materialize, will apparently also not be revealed to Hill Samuel's ultimate owners, the shareholders of TSB. The AE affair took place at a time when the City was rather more relaxed about share indemnity schemes than it is now. It is a shame that the terms of its eventual resolution should be swept under the carpet.

## Pepe ahead at half way

PETER TREWYN



Mr Roger Rowland (left), chairman of Pepe Group, and Mr Tony Reading, the group managing director, after reporting half-year pre-tax profits of £6.64 million, against

£6.07 million, on sales up from £64.3 million.

Conditions in the six months ended September 30 in Britain were difficult, Mr Rowland says, but Pepe's

operation in Osaka, Japan, made a small profit in its first trading period and group companies in Germany, France and Benelux turned out to be stars. *Temps*, page 24

## Hopes for big cuts in steel costs

By Derek Harris

Industrial Editor

A technique which promises big cost savings in producing iron for steel-making went into full-scale trials at British Steel's works at Teesside, Cleveland.

A number four blast furnace was re-lit, following modifications, the world's first production of iron using the direct combined injection of oxygen and granulated coal began.

The furnace can produce 1,000 tonnes of iron a day, including pig iron for the foundry industry and high-carbon ferromanganese for use in steel-making.

The aim is to cut coke consumption in the blast furnace by more than half. At present, British Steel uses about 9.5 million tonnes a year of coking coal, costing about £350 million. One issue will be how far the substitution of granulated coal might be cheaper.

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## SIT 'loses £5m' on Lowndes

By Gillian Bowditch

Scottish Investment Trust is believed to have lost about £3.4 million on its holding in Lowndes Queensway, the troubled furniture retailer chaired by Mr James Culliver, who is also a Scottish Investment Trust director.

A spokesman for SIT said that the group had 8.5 million shares in Lowndes Queensway and the trust's report and accounts out this week say: "Lowndes Queensway and Lloyds Abbey Life suffered badly from the high interest rates of the last 12 months and

these had an adverse effect on our overall performance."

At the end of October 1988 Lowndes was SIT's fourth largest British investment, with a £6.13 million stake. Yesterday the 8.5 million Lowndes shares were worth just £722,500. The shares are suspended at 8.5p pending Lowndes' second refinancing in six months. The SIT spokesman refused to say if it had participated in Lowndes' £18.5 million rights issue last August.

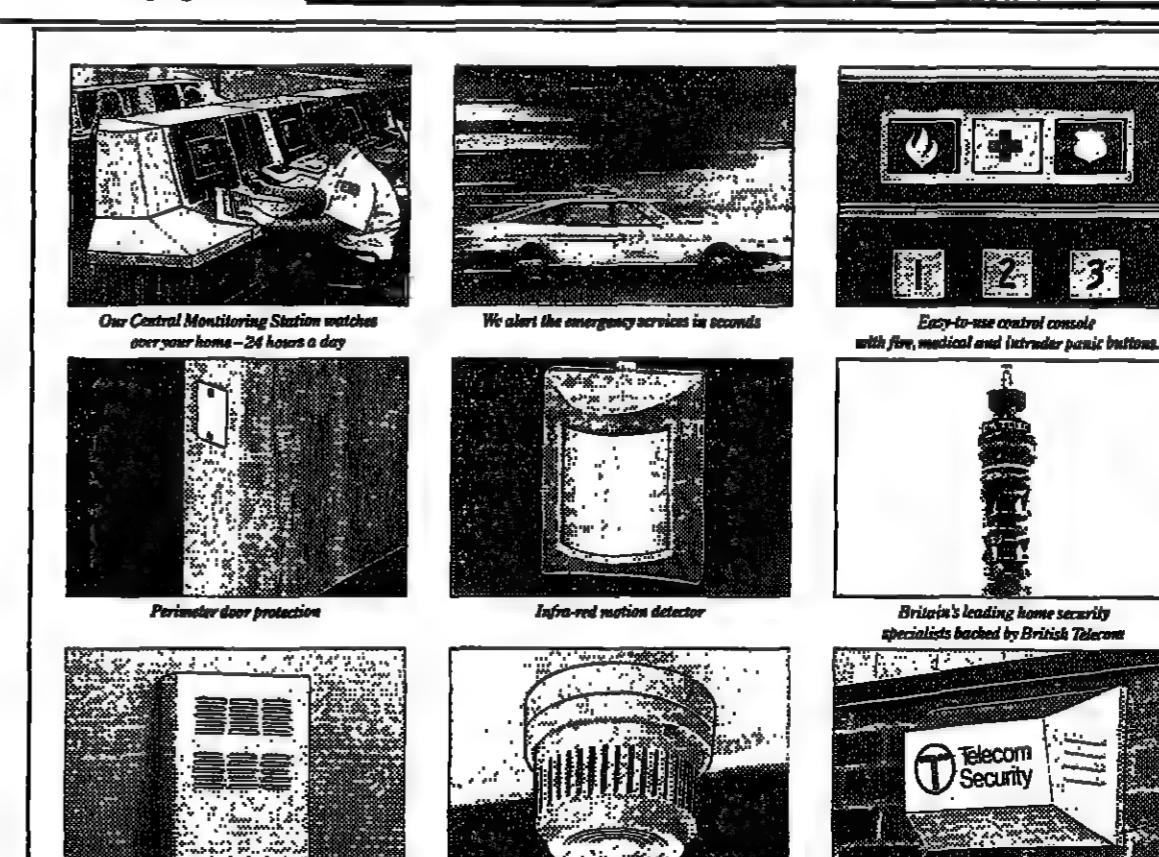
SIT increased its net asset value by 19 per cent to 197.8p a share in the year to October 1989. SIT said there is no conflict of interest between Mr Gulliver sitting on SIT's board and SIT investing in a company he chairs.

SIT has changed broker from Hoare Govett to County NatWest, which has a strong investment trust team. Mr Robin Angus, investment trust analyst at County, said it is perfectly normal for investment trusts to invest in companies their directors are involved in.

## Piranha laid bare

Readers of Michael Lewis's humorous cult book, *Liar's Poker*, which tells the story of the rise and fall of Salomon Brothers — and is being read avidly, to rave reviews, within the Square Mile — will be all too familiar with the character in it only ever referred to as the "human piranha." A vivid picture is painted of him as being singularly foul mouthed, but also one of the firm's top performers in New York. This "piranha" is, I can reveal, none other than one Tom Bernard. And he resigned from Salomon's just before Christmas after being shamed sideways, off his heady perch on the high-yield debt trading desk. Colleagues confirm that Lewis's description of Bernard is accurate. He is indeed notorious for his use of bad language, but it is also true that he made several million dollars for Salomon and, in his seven or so years with the firm, helped establish its name as a financial force to be reckoned with. Wall Street watchers are now waiting with bated breath to see where he will resurface.

• Wall Street traders are, well, trying out a new type of chewing gum which is supposed to detect whether or not they are suffering from stress. Called Stress Age, the gum has been developed in Japan and is supposed to react to chemicals, produced by stressed human beings, and found in saliva. The gum will apparently turn pink within three minutes if the chewer is stressed.



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## C/o a hole in the ground

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Kelly joins the other Morgan

By Gillian Bowditch

Equity salesmen Paul Kelly,

described by his City friends

as "shylock and cuddly," is

leaving Smith New Court to

work for Morgan Stanley,

under the wing of the inimitable

John Holmes, from mid-February.

Kelly, who began his City career

as a fund manager at Mercury,

the asset management arm of SG

Warburg, switched to selling

equities — specializing then in

the financial sector — when he

moved to Lting &amp; Crukshank

and became a more general

salesman at SNC. "It is

very good news for us," says

Holmes. "We don't have great

numbers of sales people here.

We look for people who are

different from the average run

of the mill and Paul is exactly

the right sort of chap for us."

Adding that MS doesn't employ

any specialist salesmen —

"all the guys here are general

salesmen" — he said he never

theless prefers people who

have been specialists. "It gives

them an edge on certain stocks," said Holmes. And Morgan Stanley is, he said, still on a recruitment drive.

### Novel choice

WH Smith gave £10 vouchers to 30 Moscow schoolchildren, on an educational exchange programme with children from William Hulme Grammar School, Manchester, and yesterday they spent them at the company's shop in Manchester's Arndale Centre. Their most popular choice? James Bond and Sherlock Holmes

"Used story — high interest

— no interest."

Carol Leonard

# N Sea oil price rise heralds record year but uncertain decade

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

North Sea oil prices have soared to a four-year high.

European oil dealers attributed the rise to higher petrol prices and tighter supplies in the United States.

Brent crude cargoes for loading in February were quoted at about \$21.505 a barrel, between 40 and 50 cents above the close on Tuesday. One trader said: "We're still bullish. Prices could go even further." But others were uncertain.

While the 1990s have started with the oil price hitting a four-year high, no one in the industry is prepared to make a prediction of where the price will be at the end of the decade.

The experiences of the last 10 years have resulted in fewer in the oil industry being prepared to make a living by crystal-ball gazing. Those who tried to do so ended the 1980s on a diet of crushed glass.

The last decade saw the eclipse of Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the most charismatic figure to emerge from the ranks of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and the man most motorists personally blame for the rise in petrol prices (they forgot that the only time British petrol prices rose above £2 a gallon, it was the result of a tax-raising decision by Mr Nigel Lawson).

Sheikh Yamani forged the Opec policies that allowed the producers' cartel to keep a firm grip on oil prices and send them upwards in the 1970s and even higher in the early 1980s.

However, the emergence of the North Sea as a leading producer and the British Government's decision to abolish the British National Oil Company and its oil price-fixing role – its oil fields helped form Britain and have subsequently changed its role – gave the free market a stronger say in the price-fixing process.

While Opec complained bitterly that Britain reneged on an output-cutting agreement made to Opec by Mr Lawson, the then Energy Minister, they also resorted to over-production and cheating on their own agreed output quotas.

The result was that Sheikh Yamani devised a plan to teach the British a sharp lesson. He drove prices downwards so that Opec would mop up a larger share of the business and North Sea operations would be uneconomic.

In part he succeeded and for a time Aberdeen moved from boom to bust. However, the real effect was to put the price-fixing mechanism firmly into

Opec's negotiating table by his Royal masters, but his initiatives failed and he was effectively sacked.

Opec has yet to win back its

price-fixing abilities. It has tried by setting a "reference marker price", but this is an aim rather than a reality and it is the price of North Sea Brent oil on the futures markets that is used to illustrate the world oil price and as the basis for planning the long-term investments the industry has to make to ensure exploration and production continues.

However, Opec should not be written off. Its members sit

on more than 90 per cent of

the world's proven oil reserves

and by the mid-1990s will

again be in a position to

dictate prices as non-Opec

production declines.

There are hopes that the

Opec policies of the 1990s will

be more realistic and that the

organization will realize the

benefit of having a stable

price so that more serious

long-term economic planning

can take place.

For Britain, the next decade

will witness some remarkable

new developments in the

North Sea which are largely

dependent on the oil price

staying stable at about \$20 a

barrel.

There are predictions that

by about 1994 contraction

yards in Scotland and the

North-east will be under such

pressure to build jackets, modu-

les and sub-sea production

equipment that new skill

shortages will emerge. This

will see oil companies fighting

for orders.

BP believes prices will be

stable and is planning to drill

37 wells in the North Sea next

year. That will place enormous

demands on manpower

and drilling equipment.

Overall, 1990 is expected to

be a record year for activity in

the North Sea, according to

analysts at James Capel, the

broker. They have calculated

that 36 companies will drill

more than 330 exploration

and appraisal wells in the

North Sea, and that most of

those planning wells will be

assuming a price of only

\$18 a barrel.

Iraq sitting alongside each

other at Opec meetings while

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When the financial strain

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# New tunes from old copyrights

**Megastars from Mickey Mouse to Michael Jackson hold the key to vast marketing potential in the 1990s as old copyrights create new products, writes Melinda Wittstock**

How valuable is Mickey Mouse — a mere doodle made 61 years ago by the late Walt Disney on a train to Hollywood — to the Disney entertainment empire? What is the worth of early Beatles songs to Michael Jackson or Broadway plays to Paul McCartney? How much is a growing catalogue of films and television shows worth to the BBC or Thames Television? And how about the value of 750,000 pieces of music to Thorn EMI or drug patents to SmithKline Beecham?

These are not trick questions nor are they additions to the game of *Trivial Pursuit*.

Until recently, no one has bothered to value, let alone add value to, such cash-generative and seemingly intangible "intellectual property."

But a growing number of entertainment business entrepreneurs and Wall Street corporate financiers believe a lot of money will be made in the 1990s from the exploitation and trading of dormant or unidentified creative assets.

The business of identifying and then adding value to such copyrighted creations as cartoon characters, films, plays, music, books, computer software or scientific inventions by updating and re-releasing on new technology, is expected to boom this decade — perhaps before anyone in the City of London has woken up to its immense potential.

For each time a property is changed — either in its content, its technological presentation or the context in which it is shown, read or heard — a new money-spinning copyright or patent is created.

Re-releasing an old recording on compact disc, updating an old film's soundtrack or discovering a new use for an old drug compound, provide extra royalties for the original rights holder and a valuable new copyright for whoever updated the product.

Analysts, copyright lawyers, Wall Street dealmakers and the new entrepreneurs all agree that during the 1990s

companies will learn how to squeeze much more out of what has not yet been noticed.

Mr Anthony Deifies, a guru on intellectual property rights, said: "It's like the 1950s automobile industry; it had no idea the two-to-three-car family was around the corner."

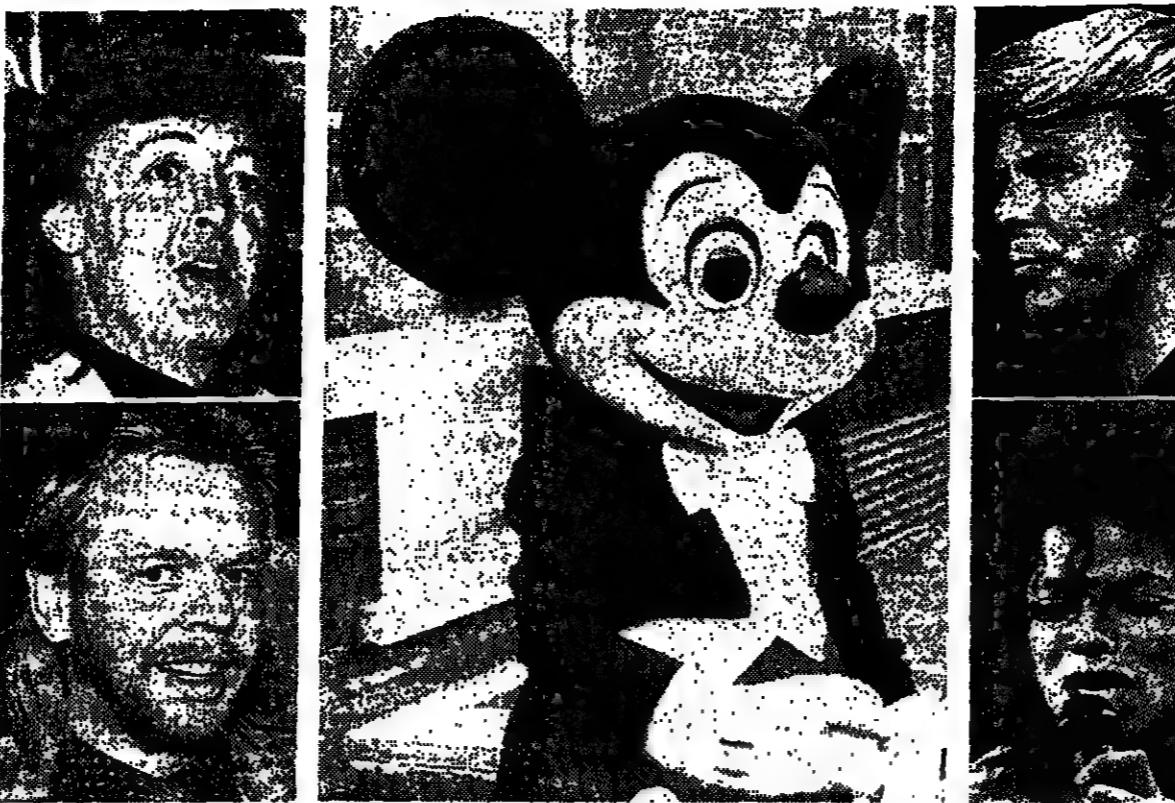
Mr Deifies, a rock business manager during the 1970s who still handles the worldwide licensing of David Bowie's recordings, and videos and manages Rick Wakeman, is to launch a new company in January that will trade in, and add value to, intellectual property rights. With the help of Mr Chris Demetriou, a former record producer and songwriter, he plans to rejuvenate leased or acquired film, television, literary, music and dramatic rights by combining changing or cross-marketing them to create new copyrights.

The new company, which has held talks with independent television companies in Britain and record companies such as Thorn EMI, would own the new copyrights, but pay between 20 and 30 per cent royalties to the original owner. Instead of sitting on a bank of old black and white films that can be colourized and re-released, thousands of songs that can be re-used in updated form, the owner of the original rights would lease out the properties and receive several royalty payments rather than just one.

Mr Deifies and Mr Demetriou say most of the main film, recording and publishing houses do not have the time or the management capability to concentrate on much more than producing the initial hit.

Many drug and chemical companies are now beginning to create whole new patents by exploring their stockroom to see if value can be added to their old products through the discovery of different uses.

Bristows Cooke & Carmichael, a London law firm which has been advising science-based industries on intellectual property for more than 150 years, said the new decade would be a time when company fortunes could be made or



Star-gazing: Paul McCartney, Rick Wakeman (left), David Bowie, Michael Jackson and Mickey Mouse

"They may have the film rights, but not the recording, literary or merchandising rights. We will be able to group rights together to create a whole new revenue stream."

Record companies, for instance, are sitting on immense literary assets and dramatic arts performance rights. Mr Deifies could help record labels use its most famous album covers to produce a glossy, hardcover book on the artists involved. Or a Janis Joplin lookalike could travel the world recreating a 1968 concert.

Opportunities for merchandising and theme parks

also abound. The owners of the rights to *Star Trek* could build a number of Starship Enterprises around the world, selling spin-off products at the same time.

But it is in the creation of new technology where much of the potential lies.

Mr Andrew Wallach, Wall Street entertainment analyst at Drexel Burnham Lambert, says the value of film libraries, soaring with the video market, are set to leap in the 1990s with the advent of digital compact disc videos (CDVs) and interactive television.

Broadcasting hours are poised to increase so quickly

throughout Europe that there will neither be the talent nor the money to create enough new programming to satisfy demand as more channels come on air. Mr Wallach said: "Refurbishing and recycling old catalogue material will be key in satisfying demand."

With computer compatible

CDVs, viewers will be able to access hours of video and audio programming from a library of stored digital material in seconds. Interactive television will make it possible to watch films or sports from several different points

of view, digitally programmed

will also be higher-definition HDTV screens and ultimately, three-dimensional, laser-generated holograms.

Just as a 1963 Beatles hit released on CD has a new 1989 copyright, new broadcasting technology will mean a wealth of new, valuable copyrights.

Though very few in the City are yet aware of how intellectual property can be used and re-used, some analysts and British companies are beginning to see the potential.

Miss Brynwyn Maddon, a broadcasting analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said: "Legal ownership of film libraries

is broken by their ability to recognize and exploit their intellectual assets.

"Companies which actively manage their intellectual property will find a lot of potential that may not have been obvious at first," said Ms Sally Field, an intellectual property rights specialist at Bristows.

"A drug might not be good for curing cancer but then again it may kill insects," she said.

Upjohn, the US pharmaceuticals group, put the theory into practice when it discovered that one of its heart drugs, Minoxidil, could also be used to regenerate hair growth. The spin-off product is now trading successfully under the

Moguline brand name. "Over the next 10 years, the level of perception of intellectual property rights and their value can only increase," said Ms Field.

"Especially in a recession, the active management of rights — be it for protective purposes and commercial gain — provides a company with an edge over its competitors."

Along with the increasing trend towards recycling, reworking and repackaging intellectual property rights, Ms Field also predicts a significant rise in the amount of litigation surrounding the protection of rights — in particular new innovations in the biotechnology field.

and publishing backlists has more commercial value than the City had realized. Up until now there has been little in the way of a market in the UK for repeats, but that is changing."

She expects prices paid by bidders acquiring record, film and publishing houses to increase significantly in the 1990s.

Prices paid recently in the sector had been seen by the City as being unreasonably high, with Thorn EMI last March paying £46 million to acquire half of the recording subsidiary of Chrysalis, then capitalized at just £30 million. But Miss Maddon said more people will soon come to understand how much value a buyer is getting out of an unvalued or undervalued bidder of intellectual property.

Mr John Whitney, the former Independent Broadcasting Authority director general who is now the force behind Andrew Lloyd Webber's drive to amass intellectual property rights across the international entertainment spectrum under the Really Useful Group umbrella, said: "Owning such rights is like owning a freehold; they are immensely valuable. To spin-off and spin-forward such rights lies at the heart of the company."

Really Useful, which plans to acquire a leading American television production company with a "sizable catalogue," has said it wants to make a film version of *Phantom of the Opera* and an animated film version of *Cats*.

Thorn EMI, who are the rights to 750,000 musical properties, including *Happy Birthday To You* and *The Warson Concerto*, is looking much more closely at ways to add value to its existing portfolio.

In Toronto, it plans to open up its largest HMV store, equipped with recording studios, to allow music fans to become rock stars for as long as it takes them to sing along to their favourite song and walk away with a recording of themselves for a fee.

Meanwhile, EMI Music and Michael Jackson are negotiating to buy the rights to Barry Gordy's Motown classics.

CEMA, its Los Angeles distribution arm, is also talking with Walt Disney — which plans a move into pop music with Touchstone Records, its new label — about production and distribution links.

Meanwhile, Disney, which says its "culture" is far more

valuable than its real estate and is seen as the expert's expert at adding value to existing assets through cross-promotion, plans to make acquisitions totalling \$1 billion (£620 million), which could include CBS, one of the four US television networks, or a number of film production houses.

But it is difficult to put concrete values on intellectual property rights when much of what is being valued is future potential.

One analyst said: "Such rights are as valuable as someone is willing to pay, but the mere recognition that future potential exists has been enough to drive up bid prices in the publishing, film and recording sectors. Those prices will continue to climb through the 1990s."

The leasing, adapting and trading of intellectual property rights is legally complex, given the number of artists and rights owners involved, variance in the copyright laws of different countries, and even some confusion over who owns what and how much.

Mr John Cohen, a music business solicitor at Clintons who handles Michael Jackson, who handles the rights to 750,000 musical properties, including *Happy Birthday To You* and *The Warson Concerto*, is looking much more closely at ways to add value to its existing portfolio.

Mr Richard Thomas, a solicitor at the Simkins Partnership specializing in film and broadcasting, said: "It's not as if the rights come wrapped up in a nice package; there are always strings attached. For every pound you make from spin-off rights, you may have to payout 50p in royalties. There's no guarantee of success before a lot of time, effort and money has been invested."

Mr Deifies and Mr Demetriou remain undaunted by skepticism amongst British lawyers and City institutions.

Like Mr Cohen, who blames "greed" and conservatism for Britain's slowness in waking up to a large growth area, Mr Demetriou points to law firms in New York, where intellectual property deals continue at a fast pace.

Mr Deifies said: "This business is virtually inexhaustible. It's like an old Edwardian puppet show. There are lots of moveable trees and scenes. The trees can be moved to find a lake where a swan can be turned into a princess, and so to behold, a new story — a new right — has been created."

## Taking stock of valuable patents

It is not just entertainment entrepreneurs and analysts who are getting excited about extra profits to be made through aggressive exploitation of dormant intellectual property rights.

Many drug and chemical companies are now beginning to create whole new products by exploring their stockroom to see if value can be added to their old products through the discovery of different uses.

Bristows Cooke & Carmichael, a London law firm which has been advising science-based industries on intellectual property for more than 150 years, said the new decade would be a time when company fortunes could be made or

broken by their ability to recognize and exploit their intellectual assets.

"Companies which actively manage their intellectual property will find a lot of potential that may not have been obvious at first," said Ms Sally Field, an intellectual property rights specialist at Bristows.

"A drug might not be good for curing cancer but then again it may kill insects," she said.

Upjohn, the US pharmaceuticals group, put the theory into practice when it discovered that one of its heart drugs, Minoxidil, could also be used to regenerate hair growth. The spin-off product is now trading successfully under the

## Elan gains full listing on Amex

By Philip Panayotis

Elan Corporation, the Irish pharmaceutical research and manufacturing company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market in London and Dublin, has obtained a full listing on the American Stock Exchange.

The company began trading its American depository shares yesterday, and has now surrendered its quote on the NASDAQ "over-the-counter" market which it has held since 1984.

The full listing from Amex will involve lower transaction costs and enables many institutions, whose rules prevent trading in unlisted securities, to take an interest in Elan.

Mr Don Panos, Elan's chairman and chief executive, said the listing on Amex was intended to enhance the tradeability of the company's shares.

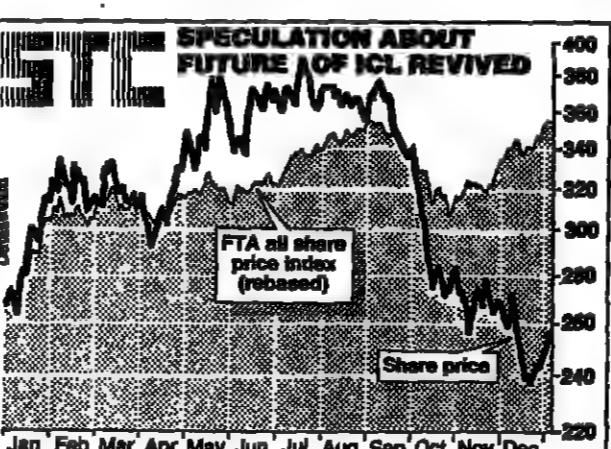
It would also help to broaden its shareholder base, he said.

Elan's shares strengthened

25p to 725p in London.

## STOCK MARKET

## Hanson up on talk of US disposal



market — estimated to be as much as £50 billion — will only squeeze the market sharply higher in thin conditions. The continued absence of sellers has exacerbated the situation.

Among blue chips, double-digit gains were seen in ICL, 33p to £11.77, Glaxo, 19p to 80.5p, P&O, 10p to 66p, RMC, 21p to 73.5p, and BICC, 12p to 45p.

Government securities lost an early lead to finish 1½% lower, worried about a possible rise in Dutch interest rates.

STC, which owns ICL, Britain's biggest computer group, shrugged off some recent nervousness with a rise of 17p to 264p. Once again there is speculation about ICL, with talk that Fujitsu of Japan wants to take a stake. Last year, there were claims that Olivetti of Italy and one of the big West German computer groups wanted to buy ICL. But ICL

has always played these reports down, maintaining that it is not for sale.

The big four clearing banks were up to put much of a showing despite the record-breaking run in the rest of the market. Once again, the spectre of bad debts has started to loom over them. This time it

Poly Peck, now quoted among blue chip retailers and part of the Timperley portfolio for 1990, has started the new year with a bang, soaring 23p to a peak of 418p.

Managers are now trying to increase their weighting as PPG's rating looks cheap compared with other companies in the sector.

It is the property sector causing all the problems.

Last year, the Bank of England warned them of their exposure to the property market and it has now warned foreign banks in this country.

Now comes the news of a \$300 million (£186 million) provision by the Bank of Boston because of the fall in property values in parts of the US. British clearing banks are also heavily involved in the US, especially National Westminster, 4p better at 354p.

There were also small gains in Lloyds, 3p to 455p, and Barclays, 8p to 392p, but Midland dipped 7p to 401p, after briefly touching 401p.

The insurance companies attracted more speculative buying but failed to hold on to their leads. Commercial Union, when Sun Alliance holds a 13 per cent stake, eased 2p to 525p, after 534p. General Accident, the but of persistent talk about stakeholding by Italy's biggest insurer, also fell 13p to £12.23, after £12.44. Guardian Royal Exchange fell 5p to 256p, although small rises were held on to by Royal Insurance, 4p to 561p, and Sun Alliance, 2p to

514p.

Worries about consumer spending and the spiralling cost of rate demands appear to have been forgotten in the stores sector — for the time being. Most retailers have been satisfied with their sales in the run-up to Christmas despite the squeeze on spending. Kingfisher's bid for Dixons, 4½p higher at 136½p, has also helped to keep the pot boiling. Kingfisher finished 8p better at 313p as the war of words between the two sides warmed up.

Michael Clark

## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '900	Vol '900	Vol '900	Vol '900
ADT 2,570	CU 1,200	LDC 1,000	Siem 571
Abbey Life 5,495	Courtauld 1,210	Loyds 1,513	Siemens 225
Alcy-Lynx 1,541	Loyd's 1,451	Lord 1,315	Siemens 225
Amico 7,547	Lorraine 1,848	Shell 4,188	Sime 18
AMCI 2,024	MAA 1,000	Smith 308	Simpson 48
AMF Fiduci 245	ECO 1,025	Smith & N 1,150	Sinclair 48
AMX 1,038	Enterprise 378	SK Beach 2,045	Sinclair 48

## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your eight share movements on this page only, add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the total dividend paid. If the total you have won outright or a share of the total price money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

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# Heavy trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 27. Dealings end January 12. Contango day January 15. Settlement day January 22. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ex) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26)

## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND  
£2,000  
Claims required for +58 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Group	Card or Issue	High	Low	Company	Price	Mid	Other	Change	per p	Yield	P/E
1	Hibbs (G)	Industrials A-D		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
2	Whitney	Industrials S-Z		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
3	Long Prop	Property		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
4	IS Pathology	Industrials E-K		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
5	Turner	Building Roads		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
6	Media Scanner (ex)	Drapery, Stores		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
7	Brown & Thawes	Industrials A-D		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
8	Pennant	Building Roads		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
9	Net Amst Bkt	Banks, Discount		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
10	Shawforth	Paper, Print, Adv		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
11	Evans Of Leeds	Property		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
12	Reidstone B (ex)	Tobaccos		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
13	Euro Leisure	Leisure		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
14	Dawson	Textiles		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
15	Dale Elec	Electricals		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
16	Boat (Hire)	Building Roads		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
17	Lat & Lyle	Food		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
18	Convergint	Drapery, Stores		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
19	Erskine Hac	Industrials E-K		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
20	Mercury Inv	Industrials A-D		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
21	PR Green	Motors, Aircraft		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
22	Smart Craft (ex)	Building Roads		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
23	Unit Scientific	Electricals		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
24	Sutor (ex)	Industrials S-Z		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
25	Swindon	Paper, Print, Adv		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
26	Whittemore (Walker)	Shipping		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
27	UR Land	Property		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
28	Wassell	Industrials A-D		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
29	Br Steel	Industrials A-D		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
30	Steering Ind	Industrials S-Z		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
31	Stretton (James) "A"	Drapery, Stores		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
32	Suretti Deva	Building Roads		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
33	Provident	Banks, Discount		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
34	Barclays (H P)	Breweries		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
35	Boyle	Food		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
36	Br Dredging	Building Roads		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
37	Microfilm Repro	Electricals		100	98	100	100	99	98	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
38	Blagdon	Chemicals, Plastics		100	98	100							



## TECHNOLOGY

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## Freeing Europe

How the IT industry can break barriers

Can the information technology industry help to break down trade barriers within Europe? And will a new Europe-wide industry be able to compete with the United States and Japan?

The Americans, heavily subsidized by both defence and state budgets, are hell-bent on the development of "new" technology, regardless of market demand and, indeed, market need. Much research and development work, unfettered by budgetary constraints, is aimed at semi-futuristic products not acceptable to the market.

This has two effects. First, technology is often barely allowed to establish itself before it is superseded – at any rate intellectually – by what is always claimed will be described as a "faster, more efficient and more economical new system". The second is that in the desperate search for new technologies the Americans are inclined to put customer service and care second. Customers are seen as potential buyers of new systems rather than people to be supported.

Japan, on the other hand, is traditionally considered a successful imitator, not an initiator. Its strengths have generally been price and quality control but Japan has no track record of software development, and little in the way of localized European service facilities. This should, in theory, undermine its position in a Europe that is "united".

On the Continent, the reverse tends to happen: Europeans treat customer service as a

## PERSPECTIVE

by Phil Clayton

starting point. This is in part because of insufficient research-and-development funding. It also reflects a cultural conservatism that is apparent in other industries.

It means that the uptake of technology is often unattractively slow. The situation cannot persist after 1992, and it is those European companies that manage to marry the two philosophies that will have the greatest chance of success.

European countries have their own special features – for example, the West Germans a penchant for data collection, the Italians a talent for design – but overall the picture of European IT companies is one of service-based operations.

What is the future for the European IT industry after 1992? It will be fundamentally healthy, but inevitably there will be an element of rationalization before the industry settles down to a more viable level. A spate of acquisitions or alliances will ensue, although this will not necessarily be restricted to the Europeans.

This may be unfortunate for companies that are likely to have two benefits. It should strengthen the remaining companies against potential non-European competition, and it should help maintain IT employment levels, as personnel are simply redeployed within fewer, but larger and more effective companies.

For a totally free-trading Europe to materialize, it will be vital that state-controlled organizations accept foreign tenders. At present, only Spain – which does not have its own large computer company – is entirely open to foreign tenders. This must change.

• The author is managing director of Manesseman Information Systems.

## CD hits at a tenth of the cost

ANDREW BOURNE

A new service can press a disc faster and more cheaply than conventional systems. George Cole describes how singles are produced for £300

Compact discs can be pressed for as little as £1 each. But this price applies only to bulk orders of 1,000 or more discs. This is fine for music companies that want multiple copies of the latest hit record, but not everyone needs so many discs.

The snag is that short production runs are prohibitively expensive and it costs thousands of pounds to produce just a handful of discs.

But now a Cambridge computer company, Next Technology, has developed a CD pressing service that is faster and cheaper than conventional production systems.

The service, called Pressed for Time, can make a single CD for as little as £300 – one tenth of the normal price. Next started the service at the beginning of December.

Compact discs store their information digitally. Normal CD production involves sending a digital pre-mastering tape to a CD pressing plant, where a metal "stamper" is made. The

stamper is used for pressing CD discs.

This mastering stage takes around two days and costs about £3,000, which is why pressing plants are loath to accept small orders.

The trick of the Pressed for Time system is to cut out this expensive mastering stage and write the digital data directly on to disc.

The system uses technology developed by Next Technology, Yamaha, Fuji and the American company Meridian Data. The first stage involves putting all the information on to a huge computer hard disc. This is then has inputs for nine-track computer tape, floppy discs and digital audio tape as well as non-digital media such as text, music, speech, slides and photographs. It can even store moving video pictures.

After the data has been sorted and indexed, it is fed into a CD recorder, and this uses a laser to write the information on to a disc that



Saving all round: "Ideal for companies with data stored on masses of paper, tape or floppy discs," Graham Brown-Martin says

## Two-track managers



JOBSCENE  
by Caroline Berman

projects have been far more successful."

People may come from marketing, sales or operational areas to IT. Although IT has been thought a specialist subject, such problems could be overcomes. Palmer is a hybrid manager, whose transition was driven by chance. He had previously worked in personnel and sales, and had been involved with putting viewing data sets into travel agencies. He was subsequently asked to run systems.

"The main problem was lacking confidence when faced with the technology," Palmer says. "I was talking to people who knew all the jargon, but I didn't know what they were talking about or whether it was important or not. I had to learn to translate it." Palmer asked a polytechnic computing lecturer to come in to help with his transition.

Another problem was the conflict between the short-term requirements of the business, which wanted a project completed some time next week or tomorrow, and the long-term time scale of the systems department, which was planning systems for the next three or four years.

Palmer says: "We have found that in companies where people have been moved either from the IT department into the business areas of the company, or from the business areas into IT, for periods of at least three years, the IT

team has to work through the details – these are senior and middle managers.

There are several types of hybrid manager. There are the visionaries, who show what should be done – these are the directors and senior managers. Then there are the people who take that vision and make it happen, and work through the details – these are senior and middle managers.

Palmer says: "We have found that in companies where people have been moved either from the IT department into the business areas of the company, or from the business areas into IT, for periods of at least three years, the IT

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Pal

## Immunity of social workers' records from disclosure is not absolute

*In re M (a Minor)*  
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss  
(Judgment December 14)

Local authority social work and analogous records were in a special category of immunity from disclosure, justified by the particular circumstances of the welfare of children.

Immunity was, however, not absolute; consequently, although general discovery was quite inappropriate in wardship proceedings, the practice of granting automatic immunity from production of social work records to parties other than the guardian *ad litem* needed to be reconsidered.

On the application of a party to the proceedings for disclosure of relevant documents, it was for the court to decide whether the public interest in protecting the social work records overrode the public interest that the party to the proceedings should obtain the information he or she was seeking in order to obtain legal redress.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal against the refusal by Mr Justice Waite on October 6, 1989, to order discovery of local authority social work records on the interlocutory application in wardship proceedings of the father of S, his daughter by a second marriage. The records concerned A, S's mother; Mr D.

Peter Hunt for S's guardian *ad litem*; Mrs Jane Bridge for A's guardian *ad litem*.

**LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS** said that in relation to the father's application for discovery three issues arose: whether discovery should be given in wardship proceedings.

Whether some work records were covered by public interest immunity.

Whether the particular records or any of them should be disclosed to the father.

**Observation**

In the first reported case in which social work records appeared to have been considered by any court, *In re D* ([1970] 1 WLR 599), Lord Justice Harman had said that there was quite contrary to practice to give discovery in a wardship case.

Her Ladyship had never heard of a formal order for discovery in a wardship case.

General discovery in any way of lists was, in her judgment, entirely inappropriate but there seemed to be no reason why applications for disclosure of specific documents should not be made where considered suitable in wardship applications and her Ladyship had no reason to believe that that did not happen.

### Social work records

Social work records compiled and kept by a local authority pursuant to their statutory obligations had first been considered by the Court of Appeal in *In re D*. The court had based its decision to exclude the

documents on two bases other than the question of general disclosure.

The first had been formulated by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, by reference to regulation 10 of the Boarding Out of Children Regulations (SI 1955 No 1377), whereby the case records were to be open to inspection by any person duly authorized in the behalf by the secretary of state.

Lord Denning had taken the view that the case records, in view of that regulation, should be regarded as privileged and had drawn an analogy with legal professional privilege.

With greatest respect, her Ladyship found it difficult to justify non-disclosure on that ground. The very fact that the records were open to inspection by a person authorized by the secretary of state showed that the right to withhold disclosure had little to do with legal professional privilege.

The other basis was the issue of 'caution', that is to say, the opportunity for the child care officers to be completely free and frank in making their notes and reports.

Mr Matheson had submitted that the argument as to caution had been explored in *Conway v Rinimer* ([1968] 1 AC 910) and laid to rest in subsequent decisions of the House of Lords. It was, however, significant that *Conway v Rinimer* was referred to in argument in *In re D*.

In *D v NSPCC* ([1978] AC 171) the House of Lords had considered the application for disclosure of the name of the informant to the NSPCC of a local authority social worker.

Her Ladyship had had a general duty to look after the welfare of children in their

complaint of child abuse. *In re D* had been specifically referred to in the speeches and it had not been suggested by any of their Lordships that *In re D* had been wrongly decided or anywhere disapproved.

On the contrary, the decision in *In re D* had been accepted by the court in *D v NSPCC* had been accepted in subsequent decisions of the Court of Appeal and at first instance as having expressly approved the rule laid down in *In re D*.

That body of authority Mr Matheson argued that *D v NSPCC* had not expressly approved *In re D* and that the basis upon which the latter decision had been made was flawed in the light of the decisions on *caution*.

But her Ladyship was satisfied that the House of Lords in *D v NSPCC* had accepted the principle of immunity enunciated in *In re D* in respect of social work records.

Local authority social workers had a general duty to look after the welfare of children in their

schools, nurseries and general practitioners as well as the parents in their own home, and record the impressions and information given them from various sources about the welfare of children.

Disclosure of documents concerning the continuing obligations and concerns of the local authority over a period of time might be very damaging to the welfare of the child in the potential source of relations between social workers and the family and the possible destruction of fragile relationships where the family and the local authority were likely to be locked willy-nilly into a continuing relationship over the child or other children of the family, for many years to come.

In some cases the disclosure of documents might have serious repercussions for the child himself. Sources of valuable information might require to be protected.

Case conferences brought together people of different disciplines from the local community to discuss the welfare of a child.

For them also, the disclosure of the contributions made at a case conference and recorded might have adverse results and the possibility of such disclosure might even inhibit some from attending — an effect which could only be to the detriment of children in the community.

Social work and analogous records were therefore, in her Ladyship's view, in a special category of immunity, justified by the particular circumstances of the welfare of the children.

Her Ladyship considered that the documents which came into existence were compiled in accordance with the Boarding Out Regulations or supervision duties imposed by a court, or general duties of monitoring the welfare of children in the authority's care.

But there was no absolute rule against disclosure. Thus it might be necessary for local authorities in child-care cases, for the benefit of the child concerned, to volunteer disclosure of certain records, such as contemporary notes in a diary or the actual notes of interviews in a sexual abuse case.

In a disputed case, there was another public interest to take into account, namely the public interest in the due administration of justice.

Since 1970, if not before, the practice in wardship cases appeared to have been to give automatic immunity from production of social work records to parties other than the social workers.

That case had concerned the immunity of Crown documents.

Lord Fraser of Tullybelton had then stated (at p436) that the court should "... inspect documents only where it has definite grounds for expecting to find material of real value to the party seeking disclosure".

The speeches of the House of Lords were equally applicable to social work records.

Her Ladyship would respectfully adopt the words of Lord Fraser: that unless the documents were likely to be of real importance to the parties seeking disclosure there was nothing to set against the public interest in immunity from production.

It was for the person seeking disclosure clearly to establish the need for the social work or other relevant documents to be produced.

The gravity of allegations made against a party in wardship, such as that he was guilty of physical or sexual abuse of the child, was likely to be an important consideration to place in the balance.

Her Ladyship considered that the strict approach developed in 1970 and followed in subsequent decisions had to be relaxed in the light of the current legislation and modern opinion and greater openness in society.

It might be necessary for the judge to inspect the documents in order to decide whether production should be ordered.

Guidance had been given by the House of Lords in *Air Canada v Secretary of State for Transport* ([1983] 2 AC 394).

That case had concerned the immunity of Crown documents.

Lord Fraser of Tullybelton had then stated (at p436) that the court should "... inspect documents only where it has definite grounds for expecting to find material of real value to the party seeking disclosure".

Since Mr Justice Waite had never exercised his discretion on the correct basis, or indeed at all, it fell either to the Court of Appeal or to another judge of first instance to exercise that discretion.

Her Ladyship had come to the conclusion that the Court of Appeal should.

Applying the test set out in the *Air Canada* case her Ladyship was satisfied that Mr Matheson had not made out a case for the disclosure of any additional documents. Her Ladyship would discuss the appeal.

Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nicholls agreed.

**Solicitors:** Hetherington & Dempsey, York; Mr J. R. Forsyth, Northallerton; Bedwell, Ware & Co, Scarborough; Official Solicitor, Lupton Fawcett, Harrogate.

## Statement of deceased admissible

*Regina v Cole*

Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, Mr Justice Jupp and Mr Justice Waterhouse

(Judgment December 21)

A trial judge had not erred in law in admitting the statement of a prosecution witness who had died, by having regard to the likelihood of it being possible for the appellant to controvert the statement of the witness by himself giving evidence and by calling the evidence of other witnesses.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by Michael Patrick Cole against his conviction on July 25, 1989 at Kingston Crown Court (Judges Hamilton and a jury) of assault occasioning actual bodily harm on which he had been sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

Section 26 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 provides: "Where a statement which is admissible in criminal proceedings... appears to the court to have been prepared... for the purposes — (a) of pending or contemplated criminal proceedings; or (b) of a criminal investigation, the statement shall not be given in evidence in any criminal proceedings without the leave of the court, and the court shall not give leave unless it is of the opinion that the statement ought to be admitted in the interests of justice; and in considering whether its admission would be in the interests of justice it shall be the

duty of the court to have regard — (i) to the contents of the statement; (ii) to any risk, having regard in particular to whether it is likely to be possible to controvert the statement if it does not attend to give oral evidence in the proceedings; that its admission or exclusion will result in unfairness to the accused... and (iii) to any other circumstances which appear to the court to be relevant.

Mr Henry Blaxland, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Moira McNaught for the Crown.

**LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON**, giving the judgment of the court, said a security guard at Wimbledon Stadium had been struck and injured by the appellant.

At the trial, the statement of another security guard, Mr Luff, was read out to the jury on the application of the prosecution. The judge permitted the statement to be read because Mr Luff had died.

It was a formal witness statement and was part of the evidence upon which the appellant had been committed for trial.

The first ground of appeal advanced by Mr Blaxland was that the trial judge took into account an irrelevant consideration, namely the availability of other witnesses to controvert the statement of Mr Luff, including witnesses for the defence.

The overall purpose of the provisions was to widen the power of the court to admit documentary hearsay evidence while ensuring that the accused received a fair trial.

In judging how to achieve the fairness of the trial a balance on occasions had to be struck between the interests of the public in enabling the prosecution to be properly presented and the interests of the defendant in not being put in a disadvantageous position, for example, by the death or illness of a witness.

The point of balance, as directed by Parliament, was set out in the sections.

The judge had considered the trial point because the matter had been put forward before him in those terms on behalf of the accused. The judge had said himself that it was in the interests of justice that the statement be admitted.

He had clearly thought that the risk of unfairness, having regard to the availability of other witnesses for cross-examination and of other evidence, was minimal.

It was, in the view of the judge, in the interests of justice for the jury to be given the fuller picture provided by the statement, subject, of course, to the necessary warning. That was a consideration which, in their Lordships' judgment, the judge had been fully entitled to reach.

**Solicitors:** CPS, Kingston.

considering whether or not on the facts of the case Mrs Malhi was remaining in the United Kingdom without authority. The appeal should be allowed and the judge's declaration set aside.

The cross-appeal was based on the submission that the decision to make the deportation order was flawed by the fact that the person making the order had not been offered an interview.

Mr Justice Popplewell, while holding (wrongly) that the adjudicator had misdirected himself in law on the construction of section 5(1), also held that the failure to grant Mrs Malhi an interview was not capable of constituting any sort of procedural irregularity in the circumstances of the case and he accordingly dismissed the application for judicial review.

His Lordship related the history of the matter, including that in 1986 Mrs Malhi was married to a man settled in the United Kingdom, but the marriage was not a success, and that Mrs Malhi was in fact offered an interview at one point, but the offer notice was concealed from her by her husband.

In all the circumstances there was no procedural irregularity or unfairness by reason of the failure to renew the offer of interview. The cross-appeal should be dismissed.

**LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL**, concurring, said that the flaw in the argument for Mrs Malhi lay in a failure to recognize the distinction between two different senses in which the word "power" might be employed.

**LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH**, also concurring, said that the effect of section 5(1) was that the adjudicator was concerned only with the existence of the secretary of state's power, and not with the exercise of it.

**Solicitors:** Treasury Solicitor; Maurice Andrews & Partners, Birmingham.

considering whether or not on the facts of the case Mrs Malhi was remaining in the United Kingdom without authority. The appeal should be allowed and the judge's declaration set aside.

Where a prisoner committed suicide in a remand centre while suffering from clinical depression and the police knew of his suicidal tendencies, yet failed to tell that information to the remand centre authorities, his widow was entitled to recover damages in negligence against the police.

In the circumstances the defences of *volenti non fit injuria* (that to which one consents is not an injury) and *ex turpi causa non oritur actio* (an action does not arise from a cause which is itself wrong) do not succeed.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police from the order of Mr Justice Tudor Evans on December 21, 1988, awarding the widow damages of £5,717 under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 and the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1984.

True, he had been same in the legal sense. His suicide had been a deliberate and conscious act. He had known what he was doing.

But Dr Sayed, whose evidence the judge had accepted, had said that Mr Kirkham had been suffering from clinical depression. His judgment had been impaired.

If it had been a case of murder he would have had a defence of diminished responsibility due to disorder of mind. Having regard to his mental state he could not, by his act, be said to have waived or abandoned any claim arising out of his suicide. So his Lordship would reject the defence of *volenti non fit injuria*.

His Lordship would hold that the plaintiff to *ex turpi causa non oritur actio*. The learned judge had taken the straightforward line that the defence depended on some cause which might affect his well-being when he was transferred from their custody to the custody of the prison authorities.

For causation, it would have been sufficient for the plaintiff to show that the failure to inform the prison authorities had materially increased the risk of Mr Kirkham making a suicide attempt: see *McGhee*.

Secondly, the fact that the 1971 Act drew a distinction for certain purposes between the decision to make a deportation order and the making of the order could not bear the weight which Mr Macdonald would place on it.

There was a parallel between the 1988 Act and section 5(1) of the 1984 Act and since section 15 of the 1971 Act was not a valid decision by the secretary of state to deport the person concerned, if that person was indeed an illegal immigrant, failure to give the order was not a procedural irregularity, for failing to comply with the rules of natural justice.

It was therefore submitted that the decision to make a deportation order against him by virtue of section 5(1) and by subsection (2) of section 15 of the 1971 Act was a valid decision by the secretary of state to deport him.

Mr Laws conceded that the 1988 Act did not affect the power of the High Court to

to be construed in the light of the relevant provisions of the EEC Council Directive regarding such tours to be published in countries in which its overseas subsidiaries operated and, following a tour, paid to the taxpayer the sterling equivalent of the agreed percentage of the price received, which the tour had been advanced.

2. Construed in the light of those provisions, "consideration" in section 10(2) of the 1983 Act meant everything which the taxpayer received in return for the supply of goods or the provision of services, whether in cash or by credit or debit.

3. On the undisputed facts there was no basis for saying that the sums paid by the passengers were received by the brochure price or whatever the passenger eventually paid, rather than the net price.

4. A written agreement dated November 6, 1988, was entered into for the purchase of tours by the parent company from the taxpayer which provided that the consideration payable for tours supplied was to be calculated as a percentage of the brochure price.

The issue was in substance whether, for the purpose of determining the amount of VAT payable by the taxpayer, the consideration payable for the tour was to be treated as being (a) the sum actually received by the supplier pursuant to the 1985 agreement, or (b) the aggregate amounts charged to the passengers who travelled on the tour.

The taxpayer's argument was summarised in *Inter alia*, the following propositions:

1. There being no statutory definition of "consideration" in the 1983 Act, the expression fall





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The job specification is flexible to offer scope for the development of individual talent and interest.

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Applications to: Peter Witt, Director, British Road Federation, Pillar House, 194-202 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TG.

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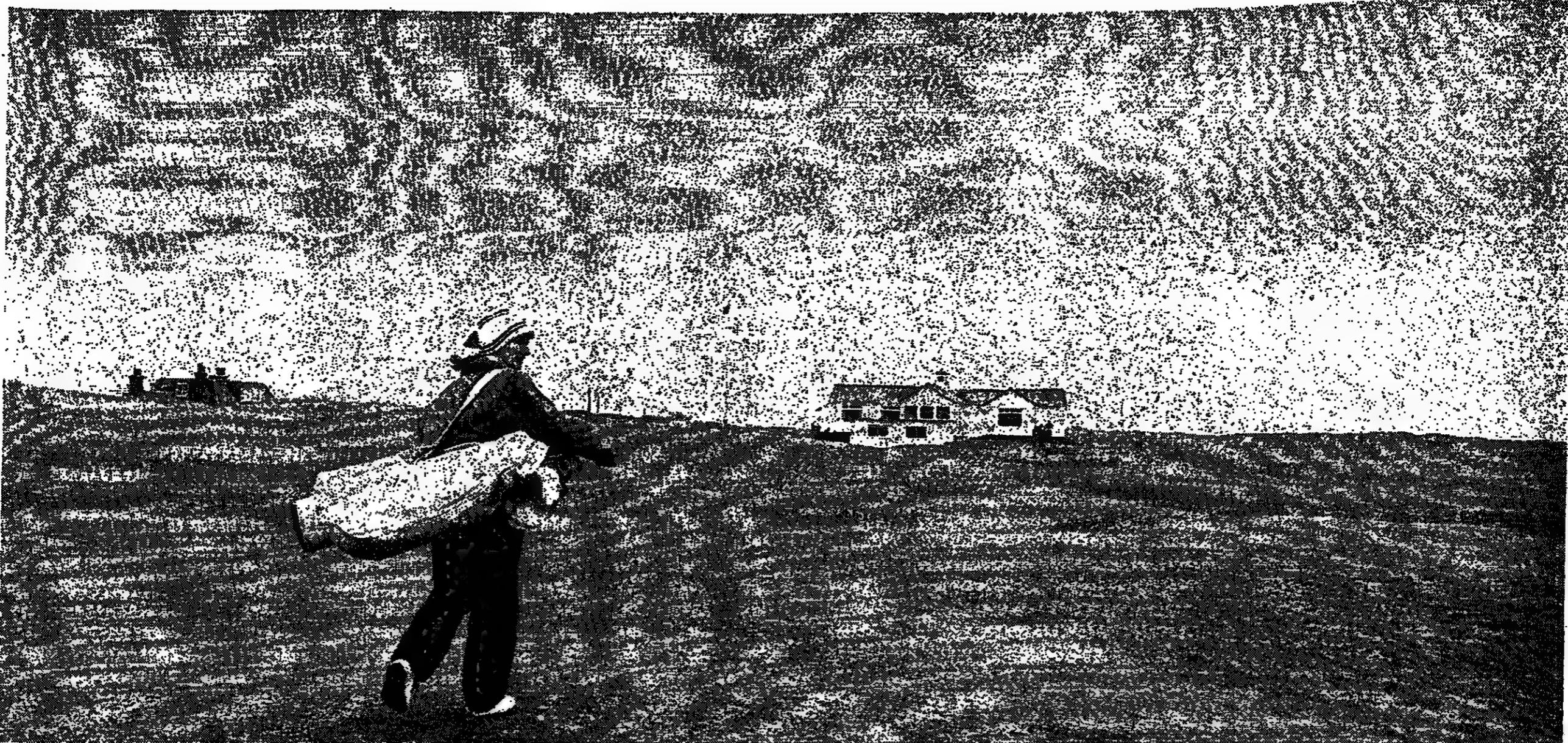
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# The woman who caught the eye of all the President's men at Rye

HUGH BOUTLAGE



She walks alone in a man's world: Fiona Macdonald, the only woman to play in the University Match and the President's Putter, braves the iron grip of winter at Rye in a match with a male opponent in which her consistency did not lose out to her charm

## Guest from 12,000 miles is given a cold welcome

By John Hemmey

Twelve thousand miles is a long way to travel for 13 holes of golf and it proved an unfortunate experience for Bill Guest in the first round of the President's Putter at Rye yesterday. He was beaten 6 and 5 by James Robson.

Other first-round winners included the holder, Mark Foggatt, the 1988 winner, Guy Whullett, and Fiona Macdonald, no longer a curiosity in a man's world as the only woman to play in the University Match and the Putter.

Guest is a member of the 1962 Oxford team, which has been assembled for a reunion dinner tomorrow. Other far voyagers included David Pini, from Zambia, and Whitfield Weynertow, from Canada, but their was little

more than a bunny hop, compared with Guest's flight from Melbourne.

Guest arrived in this country only on Tuesday, ill prepared for an encounter with the towering Oxford Blue.

"The earth was moving underneath me," he said afterwards. "And the light was so different. I was practising at Royal Melbourne at the weekend in a temperature of 34."

The thermometer reading was much the same yesterday, though on a different scale. Fortunately, he putted well, otherwise it might have been a maximum 10 and 8."

Guest won one hole, the 17th (his eighth), where he hit an impious (his word) three wood to the heart of the green but it as a solitary blow against an opponent who gave little for a lasting consequence.

Macdonald plays off plus four these days at Frinton and

up at the turn but he roared away from the Australian with four holes in a row from the 10th.

Foggatt, a powerful Ulsterman, overwhelmed Simon Ellis, a three-handicap player at Royal St George's. In spite of arriving back from a holiday in the United States only the day before, Foggatt went to the turn five up.

A three was good enough at the short second, but he hit a three-foot to eight feet at the 410-yard fourth, an eight-iron to five feet at the 168-yard fifth and holed from 30 feet at the eighth, all for birdies. Given, in the meantime, the sixth, he was able to cruise home, and a failure from four feet at the 14th was of no lasting consequence.

Macdonald plays off plus four these days at Frinton and

Worplesdon and was too consistent for Peter Osborn, whom she beat by 3 and 2.

There are 42 years between them, which may have spared Osborn some understandable embarrassment. "She is a charming girl and a fine golfer," he said, "and it was a difficult match only because of the ribbing from one's friends." Macdonald won the first four holes.

**NETS:** First round: 1. Abergavenny (G C Pritchard); 2. A. J. Summers (A. J. Summers); 3 and 2: A. H. Capicchia (M F P K Gracy); 3 and 2: W. H. Jackson (K H A Balfour); 1 and 2: R. W. Jackson (K H A Balfour); 2 and 3: P. M. Foggatt (D. C. Ellis); 4 and 3: G. Whullett (J. R. Wilson); 5 and 4: J. Robson (W. C. C. Guest); 6 and 5: R. P. Bonney (J. P. Peat); 3 and 2: J. D. Robson (W. C. C. Guest); 7 and 6: D. Pini (D. P. Pini); 8 and 7: D. P. Pini (D. P. Pini); 9 and 8: G. M. A. MacKenzie (G. M. A. MacKenzie); 10 and 9: J. Johnson (Kerr); 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15: D. G. Grimes (D. G. Grimes); 16 and 17: D. Andrews (D. Andrews); 18 and 19: D. C. K. K. Frankland (Surrey); 20, 21, 22 and 23: D. C. K. Frankland (Surrey); 24 and 25: D. C. K. Frankland (Surrey); 26 and 27: D. C. K. Frankland (Surrey); 28 and 29: D. C. K. Frankland (Surrey); 30 and 31: D. C. K. Frankland (Surrey); 32 and 33: D. C. K. Frankland (Surrey); 34 and 35: D. C. K. Frankland (Surrey); 36 and 37: D. C. K. 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end of three articles  
on the credit and debit  
sides of world sport

Last November I was at a lunch in London with, among others, Harry Carpenter. He was one of those being honoured for his contribution to sports broadcasting. I had to leave early in order to give the annual Leggett Lecture at Surrey University. This was an important occasion and I did not want to be late. In explaining to Harry, he asked me what the lecture was about. I replied: "Fair play in sport." "Hm," he sooted — or something like that — "that shouldn't take very long."

It is a time to look back and forward as we close one decade and start another. Yesterday I wrote about my, and Daley's, memories of sport in the 1980s. Those were positive words, in the main recalling our best memories of the decade. But the Eighties had also some low spots for those who, like me (and Harry, and Daley), still believe in the old-fashioned ethics of sport.

For example, let me give half a dozen bleak images that will stay in most of our memories. Maradona — unquestionably the footballer of the decade — using his hand to "score" a vital goal against England in the Mexico World Cup. In the previous World Cup, Schumacher, of West Germany, felling Battiston, of France, with a horrendous tackle. An England cricket captain in a toe-to-toe confrontation with an umpire. Australian cricketers "sledging" various Test match opponents. Ben Johnson "winning" the Olympic 100 metres in Seoul. In the 1987 world athletics championships, Italian officials "fixing" the result of the long jump. At Cardiff Arms Park, Andy Haden, of the All Blacks, jumping out of a lineout, convincing the referee that he was pushed and thus gaining a penalty that won the match.

Regrettably, I could list many more, as could most readers. And there is a postscript to the Haden



Bleak images of a decade at times more foul than fair: Maradona giving his infamous unhelping hand to Shilton and Gatting failing to see eye to eye with a Pakistani empire

incident. I heard him talking about it in a radio interview, before the last match between his country and Wales. He was unrepentant: anything that put points on the board was allowed by the referee was "within the rules" and therefore OK in modern international sport. What effect might his tactic have had on young people watching? Haden said they probably wished Haden had thought of it first.

In this newspaper on Tuesday, David Miller identified "winning" and the all-consuming concern for it, as the root cause of such problems. Of course, the desire to win is not new. The Greeks and the Victorians wanted to win, and I am sure there were always competitors whose real concern was the whims and standards of the original legislators.

But there were other thoughts in the origins of the sports we know today. Most were invented, or developed into games with a full set of rules, a century or so ago. Then,

sport began to be structured and organized; governing bodies were established, clubs formed, leagues of various kinds were born. In that Victorian period the modern Olympic movement was planned by Baron de Coubertin and he based much of his blueprint on a visit to this country.

The British stamp was firmly on the origins and development of modern, organized sport. That British influence derived from the code and principles of our Victorian forebears; and it conveyed the notion of fair play. A key word was "ethics". Competition was to be fair and equal, according to known rules, which had to be followed strictly; and there was also a strong element of what we might call "chivalry" — in the courtesy, dignity and manners which were expected to be part and parcel of sporting activity.

Well, times change. Rightly, some of the rules have changed, to

keep up with society's progress. We had to move away from eras of Gentlemen and Players; thank goodness, we now have playing fields, artificial surfaces, instead of the old reliance on the street. We now have a wider choice of sports to play. But what about the old ethics — should they remain valid? Has sport moved too far from its original birthright?

For me, the answers are clearly "yes". The maxim of any sport at any level must be that you play by the rules. But not simply within the letter of the rules; it is essential that we also remember the old spirit, the essential principles, on which these rules were based.

**I**t is vital that sport retains its sportsmanship. We must continue to value grace and dignity, the ability to lose, as well as win. And it is in those respects that we must worry about the images listed above.

Sport in the 1980s had a language



differing sharply from that of the early days. I have referred already to "sledding". There is also the so-called "professional foul". Every Saturday, at every Football League match, you can bet that some players go out ready to assault the spirit of the rules with such tactics. And you can see their imitators at junior levels of the game.

Modern sport is Beauty and the Beast. Unlike the pantomime, the endings are not always happy. The players of skill and imagination, of beauty, get "targeted" and hurt and dispirited. The elbows hit the front. The loudmouths are heard and score points, get wickets. The force is with the hard men with black hearts and intentions.

H. L. Mencken wrote: "It is a sin to believe evil of others, but it is seldom a mistake." Those cautious words would be echoed today by sporting managers, coaches and players. The 1970s catchphrase, invented by Carwyn James (a coach who believed firmly in the beauty and principles of sport), was "get your retaliation in first", and this attitude has, in my view, gained strength during the 1980s.

What must be done? I believe that action is needed at all levels of sport. I believe, too, that the issue of fair play and good behaviour is the main one to be tackled by sport in

## BOXING

### Cheers in Hardy's armoury

Billy Hardy hopes home support at the Crown Leisure Centre, Sunderland, will roar him to the IBF world bantamweight title when he takes on Orlando Canizales on January 24. Hardy has returned from three weeks training in South Africa determined to give the North East a second world champion.

Last year, Glenn McCrory won the IBF cruiserweight title before a partisan home crowd in Hardy's manor. Dennis Mancini, believes his 25-year-old hopeful will follow suit.

"Canizales has never fought out of America and he just doesn't realize just what he has let himself in for," Mancini said. "He doesn't even know where Sunderland is — he is just coming for the money. I was at Roker Park last Saturday and I saw Sunderland equalize against Port Vale in the last minute.

Thomas Hauser scored the goal but I am convinced it was the crowd that helped to put the ball into the net," Hardy said.

"That is the support I am looking for. I want the place packed out and everybody behind Billy. If they are I am sure he will become world champion."

After studying a video, Hardy thinks he has spotted holes in the champion's approach. "He's a very good champion — one of the best — but he isn't invincible," Hardy said.

© Steve McCrory, the South African midweight boxer, who could not stop when the mother of his opponent got into the ring and attacked him with a stiletto shoe, faces another delay in settling a score with his son. Tony Wilson has pulled out of their rematch at Reading on January 15 because of a hand injury and a new date must now be found for their British title bout.

© Frank Warren has called on the British Boxing Board to pay £52,000 owed by the European Boxing Union to the British lightweight champion, Steve Boyte. The Glasgow boxer is due the money for his European title attempt against Pold Diaz in Madrid on November 10, when the Spaniard retained the title on a controversial points decision. Warren, Boyte's manager, says the EBU have written confirmation that the cash would be paid within three weeks of the fight. "The British Board should pay the outstanding sum or resign from the EBU," Warren said.

© Gary Stretch, British light-middleweight champion, from St Helens, is to fight Ramon Alegre, of Argentina, for the WBC international title at the London Arena on February 14.

## TENNIS: SWEDES AND YOUNG AUSTRALIAN PROVIDE ANTIPODEAN SURPRISES

### Top seeds made to struggle

Wellington (Reuters) — Emilio Sanchez, of Spain, and Andrei Chernovikov, of the Soviet Union, the top seeds, overcame a series of crises against Swedish players yesterday to reach the quarter-final matches.

Sánchez beat Lars Jonsson, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, and Chernovikov, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, and struggled to find his touch with a different mate of racquet, defeated Thomas Hogstedt, 7-6.

Sánchez now meets Richard Fromberg, of Australia who beat Paul Chamberlin, the United States, seeded seven, 6-3, 6-4.

Chernovikov opted to change racquets a month ago and has experimented with different string tensions and the change has brought problems. "I don't have enough feeling for the new racquets yet so my confidence is not so good," he said after beating Hogstedt.

Johnson, sporting a back-to-front baseball cap, held two break points on the Spaniard's service in three games. But each time Sanchez overcame the crisis with brilliant play.

Well, times change. Rightly, some of the rules have changed, to

love after an outburst from a child in the crowd upset the Swede's concentration.

"When the little child started to cry, it was not good for me," Jonsson said later. "I had my chances and I did not take them. But I played as well as I could and I have learned something. Maybe I should be more patient to the next one."

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### Godridge confounds Czech

From Barry Wood, Brisbane

Another Australian junior came to the fore yesterday at the Dunedin hardcourt championships. Kristen Godridge, aged 16, and ranked 341 in the world, defeated Regine Rachovitsa, of Czechoslovakia, the eighth种子 and ranked 301 places above her, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Young players are crawling out of the woodwork in the land of opportunity and it is no wonder when you consider the facilities (and the climate) available to them. Godridge, who has a win over Jennifer Capriati to her credit, comes from a remote country town of 15,000 people but her local club has 24 courts. Another club just down the road has a further eight.

Godridge, 5ft 4in against the 5ft 11in of the Czechoslovak player, made a fine imitation of a tennis player who refused to be shaken off, and her determination paid dividends as

Rachovitsa became totally dispirited. By the end, she was also going through the motions.

Belinda Cordwell, seeded three, was forced to withdraw because of an ankle injury and the place was taken by Kristine Radford, of Australia, who had made it to the semi-final. She did not have much difficulty at Wimbledon last June. She can Brenda Schultz, of The Netherlands, last year's finalist, close, but lost 4-6, 6-3.

It is not Brisbane and the British Demonegot, of France, on her first visit to Australia, was not annoyed. "This is ridiculous. I'm not coming back," she protested.

Many spectators huddle under umbrellas or the shade offered by the scorecard, while the young adorn their faces with

sun shield in day-glo colours. One youth wore a T-shirt that proclaimed: "I love Barbara Bush."

He was disappointed, for the Australian seeded five, was beaten 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, by Stacey Martin, of the United States, who doggedly stuck to the baseline and hammered each ball back with a strong single-handed forehand.

Paulius was more adventurous, but suffered from some poor approach work and from not pulling Martin wide instead of just keeping her balls on the baseline.

© Tony Ward, of the West German qualifier, Udo Riegels, who defeated the Yugoslav, Goran Ivanisevic, the second seed, in the first round.

© Tony Ward, the eighth seed, Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4 and now faces his compatriot. The top seed, Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, did not play yesterday. He meets Brad Dwyer, of Australia, in a second round match scheduled for today.

The tournament is one of a series of events leading up to the Australian Open, which begins in Melbourne on January 15.

© Kristen Godridge, of West Germany, reached the final in Adelaide last year, beating Koevermans on the way, but the 21-year-old Dunchman exacted his revenge.

© Kristian, ranked 74th in the world, recorded a 6-3, 6-4

### MacLagan demolition speeds up

Paolo Cane, of Italy, the fifth seed, and Richey Renfrew, of the United States, seeded eighth, also had second-round wins, against Bruce Dern, of New Zealand, 6-4, 7-6, and Christian Bergstrom, of Sweden, 6-4, 6-3.

Also through were Gilaad Bloom, of Israel, Karin Novak, of Czechoslovakia, and Lars Walgren, the only Swede survivor, who beat Kelly Everards, of New Zealand, the defending champion, in the first round. He defeated Jeremy Bates, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

© Michaela, 6th seed, Seppo Ranta, 8th seed, and R. Johnson (Switzerland) 9th seed, all won their first-round matches.

© Paolo Cane, 5th seed, and R. Johnson (Switzerland) 9th seed, both won their first-round matches.

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# An embarrassment to be proud of

On the first anniversary of his arrival in rugby league, Jonathan Davies is proving a considerable embarrassment to his coach at Widnes, Doug Laughton. "I don't know where to play him. He plays well in every position and I don't know yet which is the best one for him," Laughton said.

Since he first played as substitute against Salford last January, Davies has appeared for Chemics in every one of the seven positions in the backs. It was thought he had played everywhere bar scrum half but research has revealed that, when Widnes played St Esteve in the European championship match at Arles, he was given a run in the scrum half jersey, and played as well as ever in the 60-point romp.

There is no doubt that Davies has been one of the outstanding successes in the history of players who have "gone north" from the industrial valleys of South Wales.

After just one year in the chemical and industrial Cheshire town on the murky banks of the River Mersey, he is a well-liked figure both inside and outside the club, and he has settled down without difficulty to become a model professional and citizen.

Jonathan Davies, one of Welsh rugby union's most brilliant players in recent years, turned professional with Widnes a year ago today. Keith Macklin assesses the considerable impact he has made in rugby league, and Gerald Davies, below, considers the problems the former Wales captain has left behind.

John Stringer, the Widnes general manager, says: "Everybody likes Jonathan, and he gets on well with everybody. He has a terrific rapport with the fans, and it is never too much trouble for him to go to a supermarket or bookshop to sign books and autographs, or just mingle with the supporters."

When Davies joined Widnes from Llanelli, he was the subject of the inevitable cynical comments regarding the ability of rugby union players to adapt to the fiercer professional demands and ruthlessly effective hard tackling of the 13-a-side game.

Those people outside the Widnes fraternity who had no reason to wish him well expressed the view that his light frame would be so buffeted by the ferocity of the tackling that he would take his bruised body back home to Wales within a matter of months.

Instead, the former Wales rugby union idol has definitely put on weight to give himself a stockier frame, while training extra hard to maintain his electric speed off the drop goal.

Last season, he made 12 appearances, plus four as substitute, as Widnes swept to a second consecutive double of championship and premiership. He scored seven tries, kicked 47 goals and landed a drop goal.

This season, he has already scored 11 tries and kicked 65 goals, despite having a month's lay-off through injury after pulling a hamstring when scoring a spectacular try against Nottingham City. He ran the full length of the field from his own posts, but pulled

the hamstring on the way and limped the last 10 metres to the Nottingham line.

Davies's ability to play anywhere, and play well anywhere, is a continual headache for Laughton. When he departed at full back for the former Scottish rugby union international, Alan Tait, he performed so brilliantly that Laughton admits Tait might not have returned in the full back role. The hamstring injury to Davies solved the thorny problem — for the time being.

No one, least of all Davies himself, knows his true position in rugby league. In a snow-bound match at Oldham last season, he scored two tries described by John Stringer as "out of this world."

On New Year's Day at St Helens, Davies deputized on the wing for Martin Offiah. He scored 14 of the 18 points with two tries and four goals, despite the fact that, on his own admission: "I didn't get into the game very often." He has played in both wing positions and in both centre spots, and scored tries from them all.

Davies is thus an embarrassment to Laughton. Every club should have such an embarrassment.

## Welsh rue their lost cavalier

It is an odd kind of anniversary. One which, in Wales, is probably not worth celebrating, but which in Widnes deserves some sort of celebration. After exactly a year "up north" and collecting 14 points this week, Jonathan Davies must now be thought of as a considerable line-up acquisition after Wales had allowed him to slip carelessly through their fumbling fingers.

Jonathan Davies has come to symbolize Welsh rugby's last diminishing decade. It is a time of frustration, of alienation, the disillusion of talent wasted and of opportunities missed. Ten long fruitless years when affairs were mismanaged and others elsewhere reaped the benefits.

Wales, which seemed to care much, if only did, it was far from obvious. Now, even in authority, it has still to catch the same way nobly attempted, with any conviction, to persuade Davies to stay in Wales.

Rugby league welcomed him with open arms and he, in turn, embraced the appreciative air of the professional code. They made such a fuss of him in Widnes that it all must have come as a sensational relief after

leaving behind those who merely were suspicious of his rare talent.

A great player needs to be told, now and again, by those who are meant to guide him, how good he really is, and so, by reminding him, he may achieve that greatness. No such communication was apparent in his case.

A sport which confuses amateurism with amateurishness cannot cope with the likes of the cavalier Davies. He was of that kind who yearned for the spotlight and the chance to show off. Wales is recent years, where even a radio interview has been frowned upon, could not cope. Instead of seeing him as a player to promote rugby and so inspire the young, there was only a grudging acceptance.

That the best use was not made of available resources was another symptom of the departed decade. Davies felt he had a contribution to make in reviving Welsh rugby. Confronted by five selectors, only one of whom — the late Rod Morgan — had experienced both the World Cup and Wales's

agency in New Zealand, Davies had suggestions to make.

He had been twice in the front line. He knew the players and the international conditions. Those who had seen both events merely from the comfort of their armchairs at home, chose to ignore him rather than call his abilities and listen to what he had to say.

There was a lack of perception too. After the Welsh team had failed against Romania, there was a call, from within the Welsh Rugby Union, to "sack him" — an awful phrase — as captain. This was to misunderstand completely the nature of the man they were dealing with. He was a player yearning into his game. He was not valued enough.

At some stage, he would have gone north to play rugby league in any case. He had a couple of years of complete mastery ahead of him. But the prevailing myopic move prevented him from doing so in rugby union. Mark Blair, recently left out of the Welsh team, and only to be recalled this week, understands such insensitivity.

Davies had, admittedly, an

ambivalent view of rugby. He had reservations because it did not pay, and he wanted his talent to be rewarded. No advanced education belonged to him, and he was nervous of what lay ahead when his playing days were over.

He himself, though, would determine the sell-by date. He had only his rugby genes to declare. It is no consolation now to ponder what might have been for him when the amateur regulations are soon to be relaxed. Rugby league was an enticing attraction. There was already talk of dropping him from the Welsh team. Jonathan Davies was not slow. He got his resignation in first.

The current situation must of Welsh rugby remains fertile for the rugby league scouts. But glory, if it ever were to be recognized, remained a good match, any day, for money. The mood was not right then; it is not now.

After a year since his departure, Wales have six stand-off halves from which the selectors may now choose, but they are all of a similar standing. It is Davies's legacy.



Man of many talents: Davies is a headache for Widnes because of his supreme versatility

### RUGBY LEAGUE

## St Helens penalty for postponement

By Keith Macklin

St Helens were yesterday fined £10,000 by the board of directors of the Rugby Football League for postponing their Stones Bitter championship fixture against Bradford Northern which was scheduled to be played at Knowleway Road last Friday.

Bob Ashby, the chairman of the league, said: "Fulfillment of scheduled fixtures has to be the ultimate commitment in a professional sport. Illness and injury cannot be acceptable reasons for the postponement. Most clubs have had to face a similar situation at some time or other."

St Helens submitted medical reports for 22 players, but the board noted that the Stones had fulfilled a reserve fixture on the following day, and played Widnes in a senior fixture on New Year's Day. Ashby said that the board felt that the energy expended in fulfilling the reserve team match should have been directed towards fulfilling the Bradford Northern fixture.

A broken thumb will sideline Paul Forber, the St Helens forward, for six weeks.

• Darren Bloor, the former Salford and St Helens half-back, has been placed on the transfer

## Kebbie is angry at Widnes

Brinley Kebbie, the wing, has told Widnes he will never play for them again after being put on the transfer list at £95,000.

Kebbie, formerly of Broughton Park rugby union club, asked for a move before Christmas, claiming: "I have been passed around. I was dropped earlier in the season for a month when I was one of the top try scorers in the country and then I was left out recently after missing a training session."

"But really I asked for a move because of a culmination of reasons going back over the last 12 months. It wasn't just because I was dropped for one game. I gave up a lot in rugby union to come to Widnes and can't afford to be left hanging around. I'm ambitious and want to play for Great Britain and win medals."

• Leigh have transferred-listed Tim Street, the Great Britain under-21 prop, at £100,000 and Barry Ledger, the former St Helens wing, aged 27, at £60,000 as disciplinary measures. Billy Benyon, the Leigh coach, said: "Other clubs have approached Street and unseated him."

Street, signed from Wigan for £18,000 at the start of last season, is believed to have missed training. Ledger has scored 40 tries in 40 games for Leigh but has been staying away from the club.

• Rob Ackerman, the former British Isles and Wales rugby union centre has been placed on the transfer list after three years with Whitehaven. Ackerman, 28, has intimated to the directors that he is seeking to move out of the area to try to better his career prospects outside rugby.

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# Paris hearing for 'clean' S African sport

**David Miller**  
Chief Sports Correspondent



After 20 years in the Olympic wilderness, South African sports officials hope that they may at last be making legitimate and realistic moves towards an as yet still distant readmission. The meeting in Paris on Tuesday between the South African National Olympic Committee (SANOC) and representatives of the Apartheid and Olympics Commission of the International Olympic Committee is a historic moment.

It is possible that this

meeting could precipitate, in the foreseeable future, the kind of selective sporting fixture between integrated multi-racial South African teams and other international sides a move for which I have campaigned for seven years. The selective reintroduction of "clean" South African sport can act as a massive motivation and force for change within the South African Government.

The Paris meeting follows two informal discussions last autumn: in September, between the South Africans and Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, and, at Samaranch's recommendation, in October in Lissabon, between the South Africans and Céleste Mbaya, of Senegal, a judge at The Hague international court.

It is at Mbaya's request that the meeting is taking place next week with two of the special advisers to the IOC's commission: Felicien Kidane, an Ethiopian refugee living in Paris, and Sam Ramsamy, the London-based representative of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC).

Representing SANROC will be Johann Duplessis, the president, from wrestling, Iasy Kramer, the vice-president, from swimming, and Deep Duplessis, the executive director. Kidane in particular, and Ramsamy, a former Natal teacher, are the equivalent of constituency representatives in the anti-apartheid argument throughout Africa: they know the stage first hand. While Ramsamy tends, under-

standably, to be overtly radical, Kidane, who fled Ethiopia when the communist regime took charge, is the most gentle and courteous representative of black Africa's majority: like Mbaya, a man of patience and reason.

Mbaya said from his home in Dakar last night: "The South Africans told me very clearly, in October, that they are against apartheid in general and in particular in sport. We had long talks, not in secret but openly. Afterwards they asked for my advice as a friend. I told them that they should meet our special advisers and after that they would see better which way they must take, and that after that it would be possible for me to meet them again."

As Samaranch has always

said, the path back for South

Africa can only be through Africa, and the exchange of views with Kidane and Ramsamy is paramount to any progress by South Africa on the Olympic front. If they can persuade these two, and Mbaya, of their integrity, only then do they have a chance with such hardline representatives as General Henry Adefope, of Nigeria, and Jean-Claude Ganga, of Congo.

Mbaya said last night that it was impossible for him to express an opinion on the present state of the relationship with South Africa because "you know what is the position of the IOC, and their position is mine."

The IOC has stated clearly that South Africa cannot be readmitted to the Games until apartheid is abolished. Mbaya at least showed some

optimism when he said that there might be a clearer view of the position following the next meeting of the commission next month.

Ramsamy, however, was predictably euphoric: the basic position was maligned and that there could be no immediate result from the meeting. "Any relaxation of the sporting boycott" he said "ultimately can only be done with total unanimity of Black South Africans and anti-apartheid bodies worldwide. There is a long way to go before this can be considered".

Yet Ramsamy admitted in an interview with Associated Press that circumstances are changing and that SANROC might be obliged to alter their tactics: that if a little relaxation in the sports boycott

might help accelerate the downfall of apartheid, such a move would have to be considered.

It is this phrase, I believe, that suggests the way could be opened to the selective readmission which I personally believe can give a foot in the door not merely to South Africa but to a sane and bloodless resolution of this seeming impasse.

• **KUALA LUMPUR:** Two South African squash associations have withdrawn from the International Squash Rackets Federation (ISRF) to pre-empt a move to expel them, the federation president, Jeremy Bates reached the second round: Nick Brown, Chris Bailey and Andrew Castle, the national champion, all failed.

So what's new? The news is that if Bailey, Brown and Castle do not start picking up a few ranking points soon, they could be out of business by the end of the year, such is the competitive spirit of the new Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour. In Brown's case, that would be a cruel end to a valiant comeback; in Bailey's, a premature end to a promising career.

At the end of 1989, Brown was ranked 159th in the world, which, considering he had not played competitively for nearly five years before the year began, was a pretty mighty effort. In June, he reached the final of the Bristol Trophy.

Brown is not a gifted player, but he is that rarity in the British game — a genuine blood and guts merchant, who makes up for his lack of touch with an abundance of determination. For that reason alone, he deserves support.

But what faces Brown, and plenty of other players in the mid-ranks of the game, is a spiralling battle against extinction as they struggle against increasingly fierce competition to gain entry to the main draws, or even the qualifying events, of major tournaments.

## Bread and butter tournaments vital

Even the Challenger events, which are the next step down the tournament ladder, are becoming more competitive. Challengers are the bread and butter of the professional game. Prize-money for most of them has been raised to \$50,000 (about £31,000) this year but, more importantly, they give players the opportunity to pick up precious ranking points — 20 for the winner, down to one for a second-round loser.

Yet, under new ATP guidelines, Challengers are limited to one for each continent each week, and none on the same continent in the same week as a grand prix event. That limits the opportunities for European players, in particular, as the knock-on effect of increased competition higher up makes the remaining Challengers that much more competitive anyway.

A recent Challenger in Denmark had a cut-off of 140, meaning that any player ranked lower than 140 — and that included Bailey and Brown — could not get into the main draw. Usually, the cut-off point is 250-300.

Unable to get into Challenger events close to home, the British players face the choice of an expensive trip to South America or, perhaps, Asia, or taking pot luck in trying to get into qualifying for a world series event in Europe.

## Nightmare for all above the top 100

"It's going to be a nightmare, not just for the British players but for all players ranked outside the top 100. I can see a lot of guys dropping out of the game," Brown said.

Brown's complaints go wider than pure self-interest. His fears are for the future of the game.

"I don't think the ATP have really considered where their future players are coming from. They have to come through this system and, if too many of them are being put out and forced out of the game, then the base of the game is going to become narrower and narrower," he said.

"How on earth can a young kid with no points to his name break through? He has to go to Timbuktu to play five weeks of a Satellite tournament and, even when he gets there, he might find he can't get into the tournament because he has no points anyway."

Brown's own view is that the International Tennis Federation (ITF) should take over the running of all Satellite and Challenger events — at the moment, the ATP effectively runs the Challengers; the ITF's Satellites — make more money available, and establish separate tours for Europe, Asia, the Americas and Australia, for example, so that there will be more opportunities for young players to develop their talents closer to home.

## END COLUMN

# Britain's players lie under the axe

By Andrew Langmore  
Times Correspondent

The New Year has not brought any early change of fortune in British tennis. Of the four British players who went to New Zealand to play in the national championships, only Jeremy Bates reached the second round: Nick Brown, Chris Bailey and Andrew Castle, the national champion, all failed.

So what's new? The news is that if Bailey, Brown and Castle do not start picking up a few ranking points soon, they could be out of business by the end of the year, such is the competitive spirit of the new Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour. In Brown's case, that would be a cruel end to a valiant comeback; in Bailey's, a premature end to a promising career.

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But what faces Brown, and plenty of other players in the mid-ranks of the game, is a spiralling battle against extinction as they struggle against increasingly fierce competition to gain entry to the main draws, or even the qualifying events, of major tournaments.

## Some don't like it hot in Australia

Sydney (Reuters) — The artificial rubberized court surface used for the Australian Open came under fire yesterday from players worried that they could be fried alive if a heatwave hits the National Tennis Centre later this month.

John Fitzgerald said conditions in those Australian hardcourt championships, played on the same Rebound Ace surface used at the Open, were life-threatening because of temperatures of around 40°C (104°F). "If it rained, we'd come off. Yet we go and play in those conditions," the Australian said after his first-round victory over Xavier Dauvras, a qualifier, from Belgium.

"What if a guy died out there? Some of the guys were talking in the locker room and said officials should make an urgent review of conditions," Fitzgerald told journalists. The court surface reached

## Becker confident about new year

Sydney (AP) — Boris Becker braved the midday sun yesterday, taking to the practice court only 12 hours after jetting into Australia from Europe to begin preparing for the Australian Open.

Becker will play in the New South Wales Open at White City from next Monday to prepare for the Open, which begins on January 15 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne. His opponents in both tournaments include Ivan Lendl, who is preparing at a resort north of Sydney owned by Tony Roche, his coach.

Becker last month led West Germany to victory over Sweden in the Davis Cup final and said he was feeling confident about 1990. "I don't know what is going to happen in

60°C (140°F) in Adelaide, causing five ball girls and boys to faint.

The bowl-like centre court at the National Tennis Centre, which hosts the Open from January 15 to 28, can become unbearably hot in bright sun, which reflects off the surface and the concrete surrounds.

Last year Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, the world No. 1, was close to collapse after a marathon semi-final played in hot sun on centre court against Thomas Muster, of Austria.

Mats Wilander, of Sweden, was one of many players who suggested the roof on the centre court should be closed if conditions became dangerously hot, an idea which Tennis Australia, the organizers, are considering. At present the roof is closed only to keep out the rain.

Geoff Pollard, the president of Tennis Australia, told journalists that the retractable

roof could be closed during the final four days of the Open when the men's and women's singles semi-finals and finals would be played. "We can't do it any earlier because there will be matches taking place on outside courts as well and it would not be fair," Pollard said.

The complaints against the Rebound Ace surface come just days after John McEnroe repeated the frequent complaint that the Open's timing so soon after the Christmas break will continue to hit its standing as a grand slam tournament.

The Open is not anywhere

near the standard of the other three grand slam events . . . a lot of top-ranked players don't want to come," the American said in Perth after the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis tournament. "It is just so difficult to come back to tennis at a top level after Christmas."

Eight of the world's top 20 men players are bypassing the Open but Lendl, Boris Becker, of West Germany, the world No. 2, Stefan Edberg, of Sweden, No. 3, and McEnroe, No. 4, will compete.

**Vellaire appointed**

The struggling Leicester basketball team has replaced Gary Johnson, its dismissed player-coach, with Perry Vellaire, a 23-year-old American guard.

**Back pedalling**

King's Lynn have dismissed their Italian speedway rider, Armando Del Chieco. Bill Barker, the promoter, said: "Del Chieco missed 17 league matches last season either through injury or commitments in Italy. We thought enough was enough."

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